



Local Man

Welcome to
FARMINGTON

FAMOUS SUPERHERO, CROSSJACK!

TRUCKS
→

WC
SEED
WASHINGTON
COUNTY
SEED

seeley B AMF! 22

SEELEY

FLEECs

SIMPSON

SOBREIRO

LOCAL MAN

VOLUME 1: HEARTLAND

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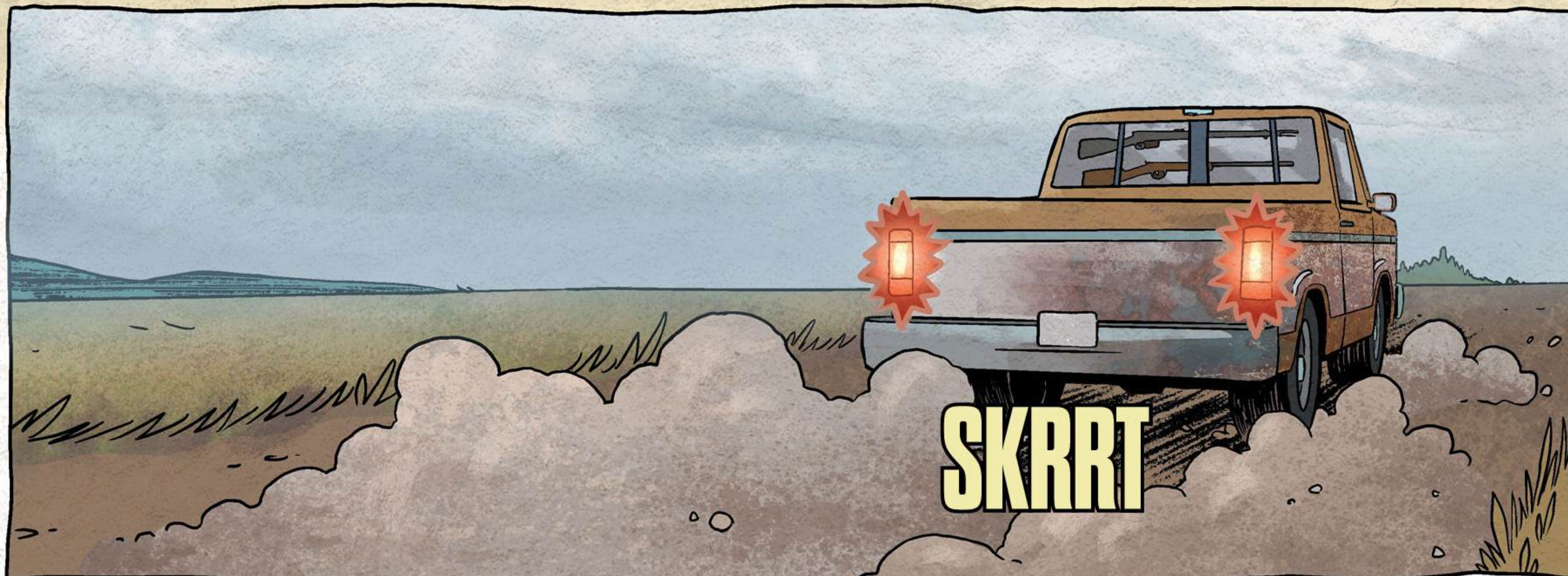
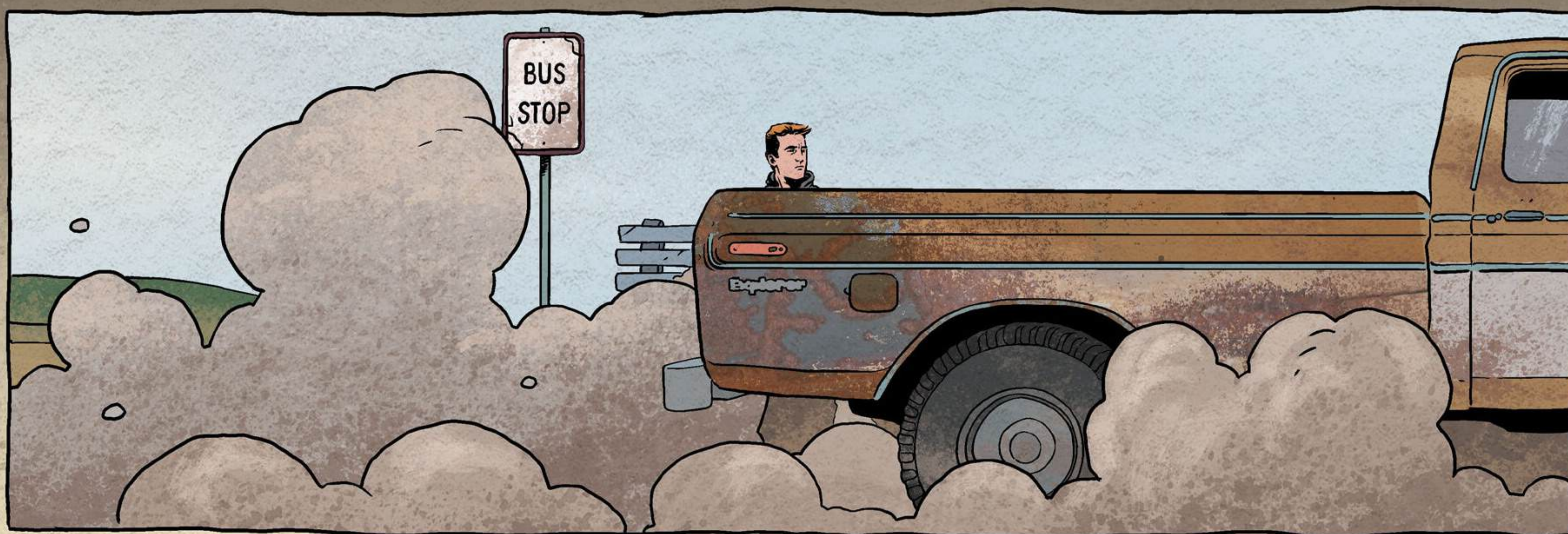
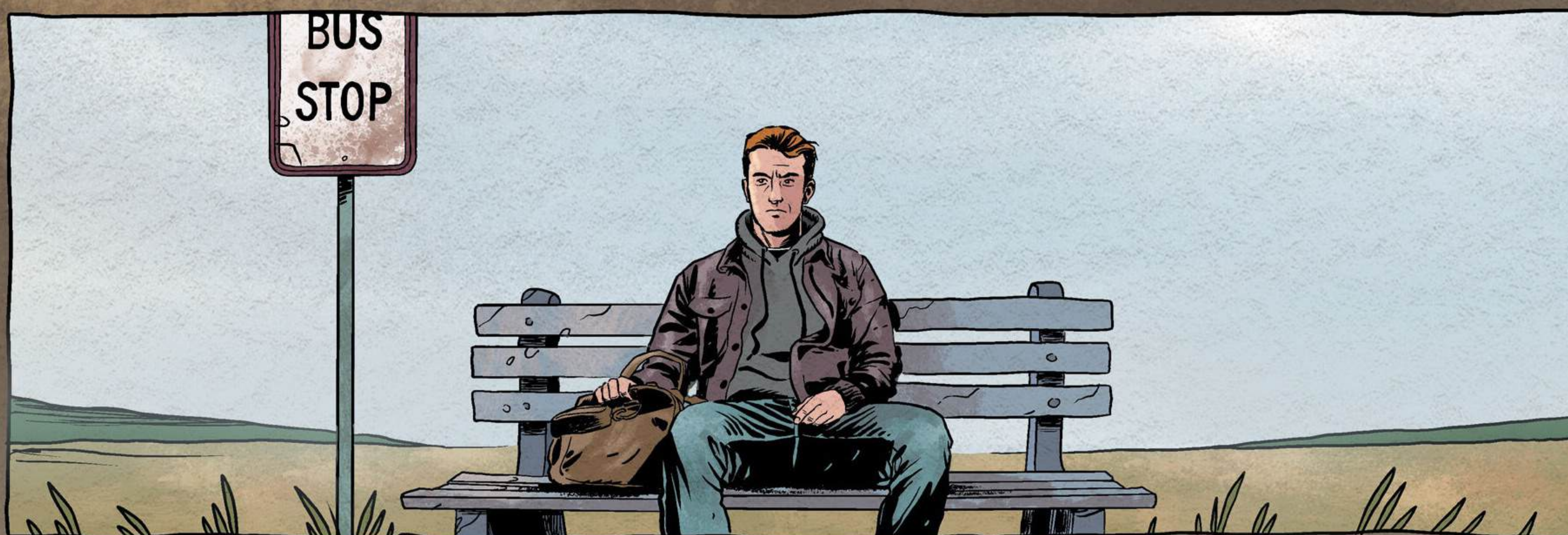
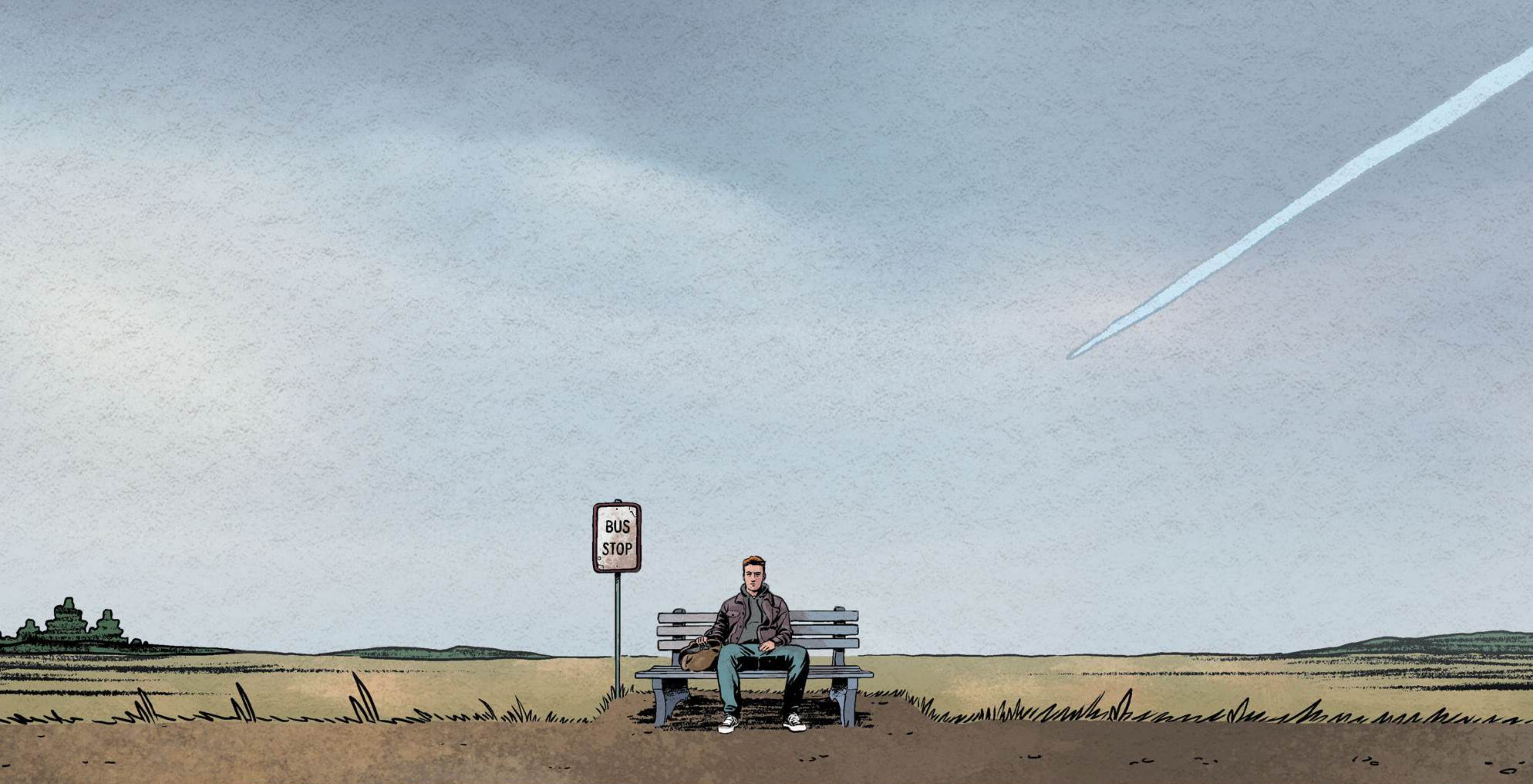
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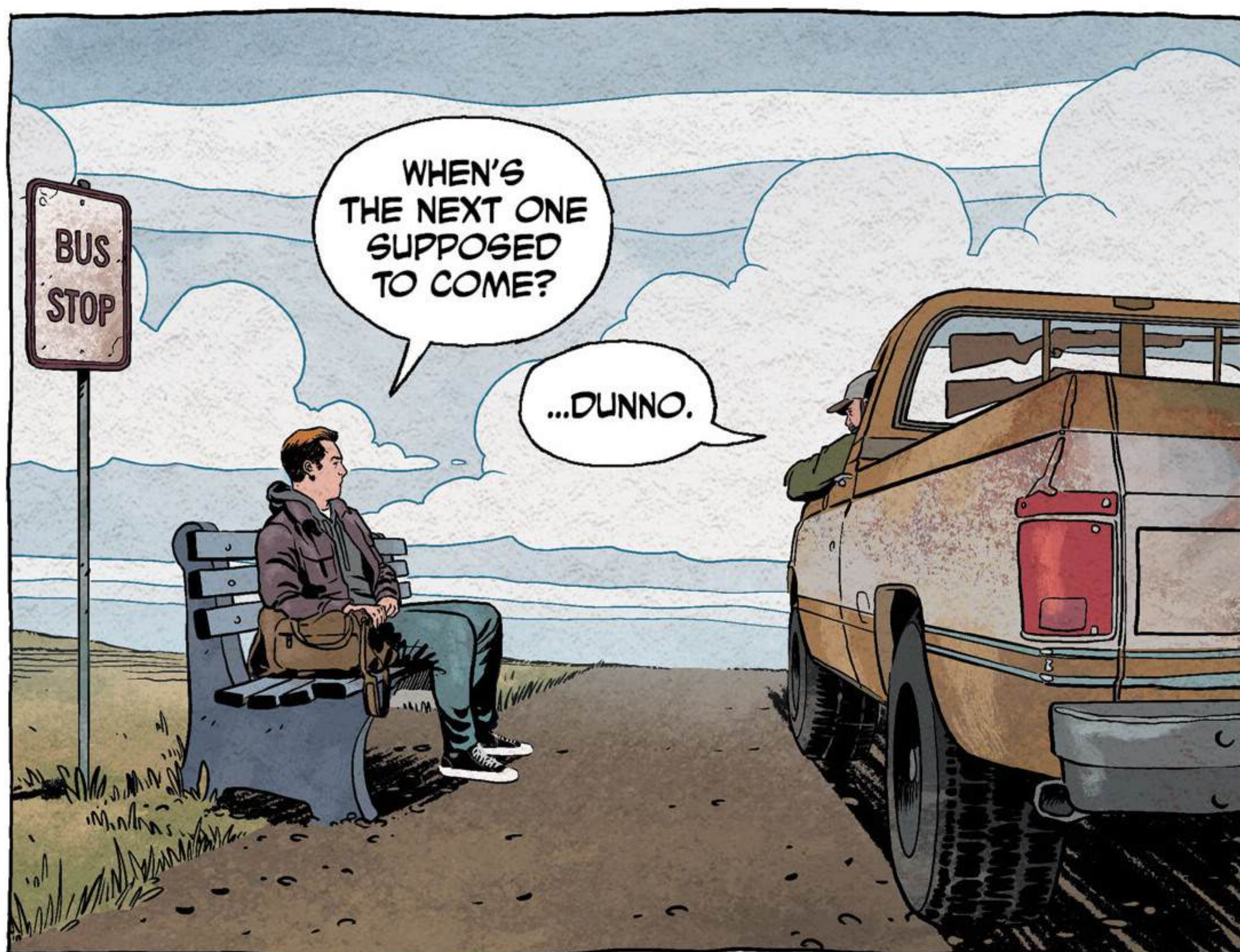
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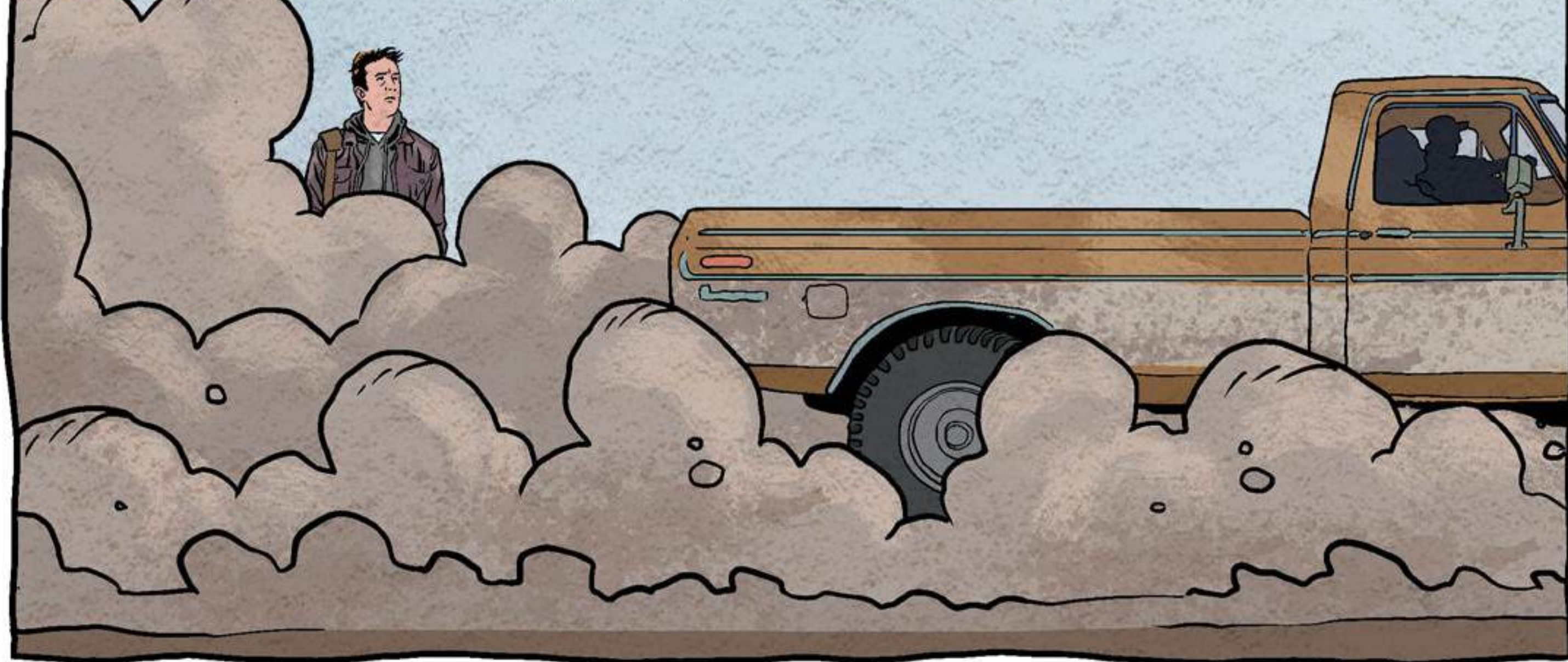


Chapter 1





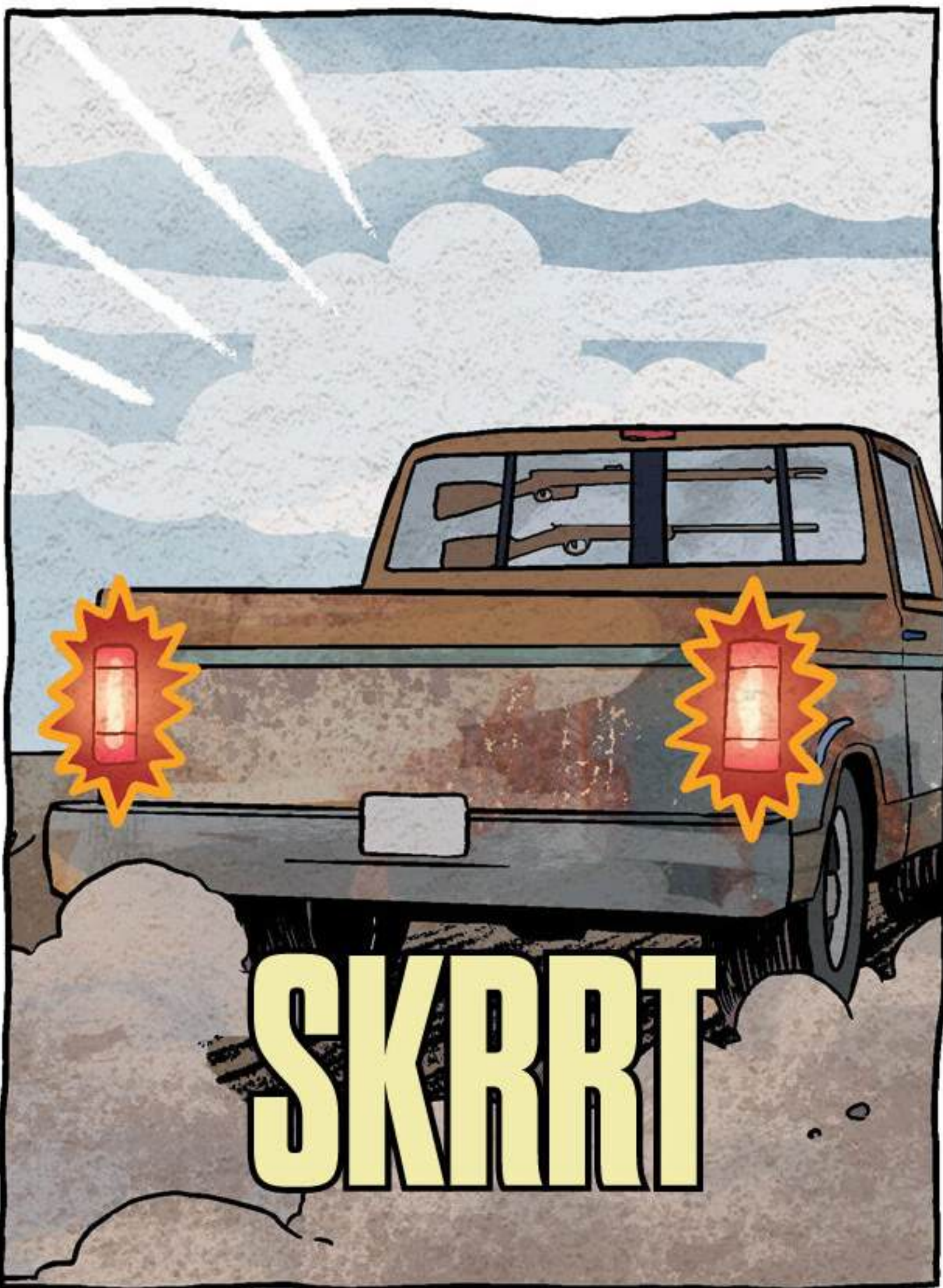
EEEEEECH!



YEAH...



TAP
TAP



JACK...
X...

XAVER?

YOU CALL
FOR A
DRVR?

HA HA
BECAUSE
...



IT'S...
IT'S COOL.

JUST GO
AHEAD AND
CANCEL. I'LL
CALL ANOTHER
ONE.

OH, AIN'T
NO OTHER
ONE.

SEEMS LIKE
YOU'RE JUST
SHIT OUT OF
LUCK, HUH?



FUCK
CROSSJACK!



HEARTLAND







HEY MA.

YOUR SUPPER'S IN THE WARMER.



HOME COOKING!

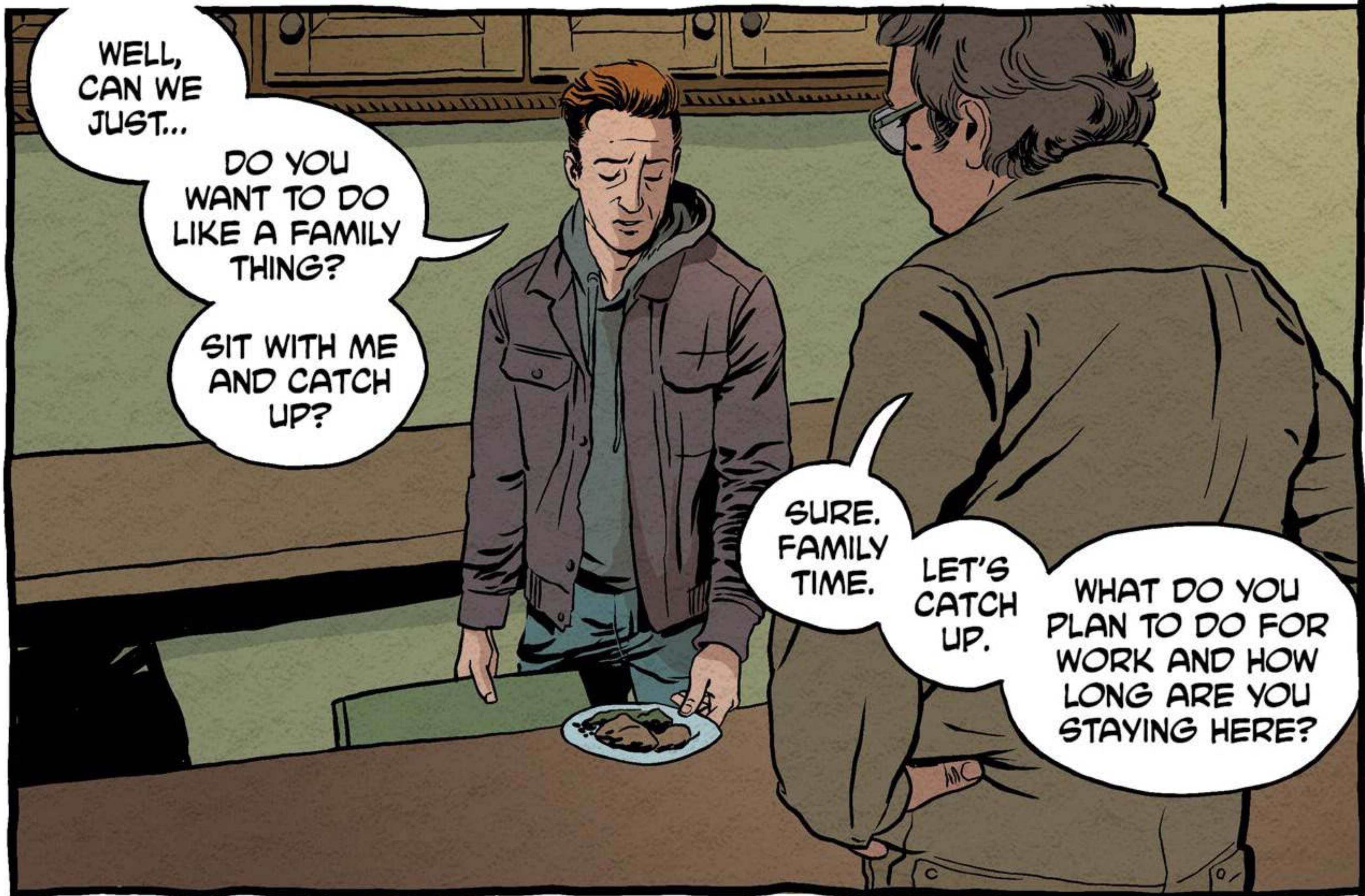
I'M EXCITED!



UM...

DID YOU GUYS EAT ALREADY?

OF COURSE WE ATE ALREADY. IT'S 8:30 AT NIGHT.



WELL, CAN WE JUST...

DO YOU WANT TO DO LIKE A FAMILY THING?

SIT WITH ME AND CATCH UP?

SURE. FAMILY TIME.

LET'S CATCH UP.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO FOR WORK AND HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING HERE?



C'MON, I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME STAY HERE.

I PROMISE, I WON'T BE DOWN AND OUT FOR TOO--

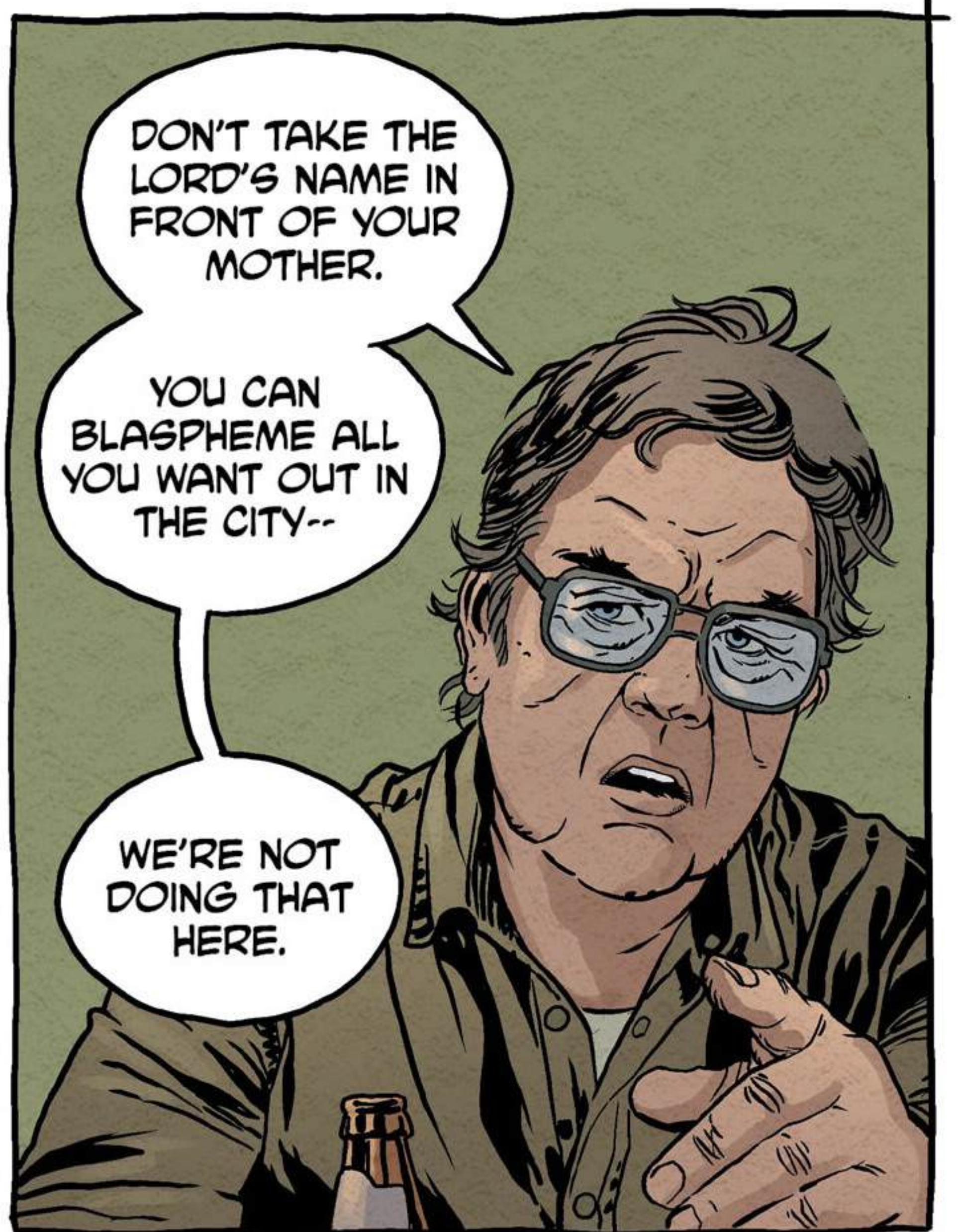
GAH!!



PEPPER!?

JESUS CHRIST,
IS THIS DOG
INVINCIBLE?!

HOW OLD IS
HE? WASN'T HE
LIKE 14 WHEN I
LEFT!?



DON'T TAKE THE
LORD'S NAME IN
FRONT OF YOUR
MOTHER.

YOU CAN
BLASPHEME ALL
YOU WANT OUT IN
THE CITY--

WE'RE NOT
DOING THAT
HERE.



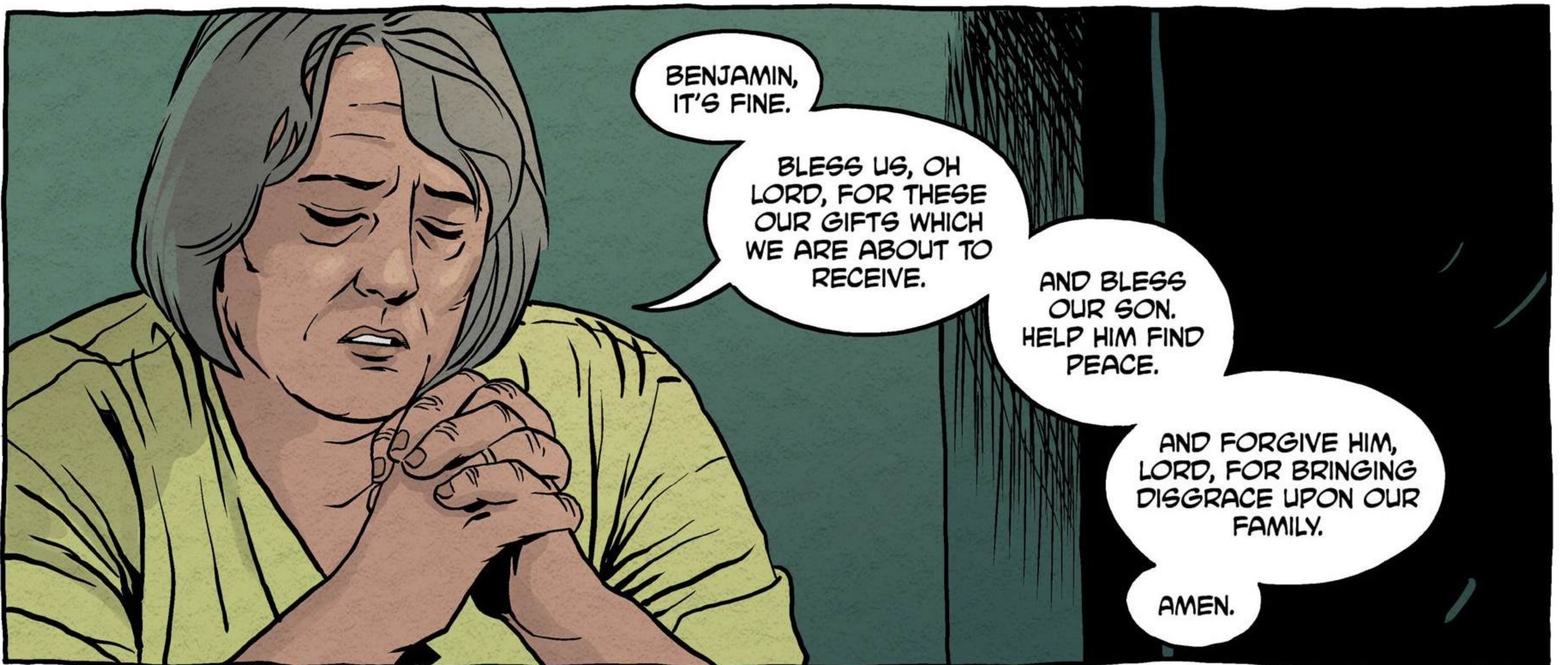
SORRY.
LOOK...
I UM...

I FEEL LIKE
EVERYBODY'S
MAD AT ME
HERE?

YOU
GONNA SAY
GRACE?

OH. UM.
MOM, DO
YOU WANT
TO...

WE
ALREADY
ATE!



BENJAMIN,
IT'S FINE.

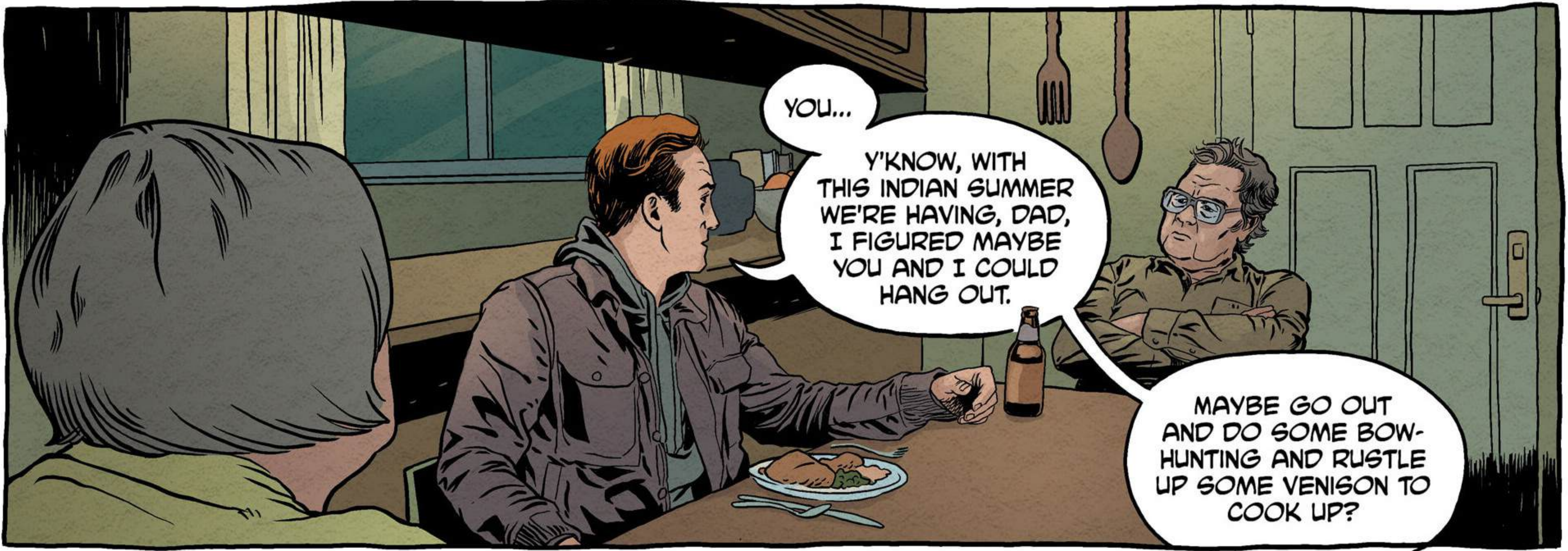
BLESS US, OH
LORD, FOR THESE
OUR GIFTS WHICH
WE ARE ABOUT TO
RECEIVE.

AND BLESS
OUR SON.
HELP HIM FIND
PEACE.

AND FORGIVE HIM,
LORD, FOR BRINGING
DISGRACE UPON OUR
FAMILY.

AMEN.

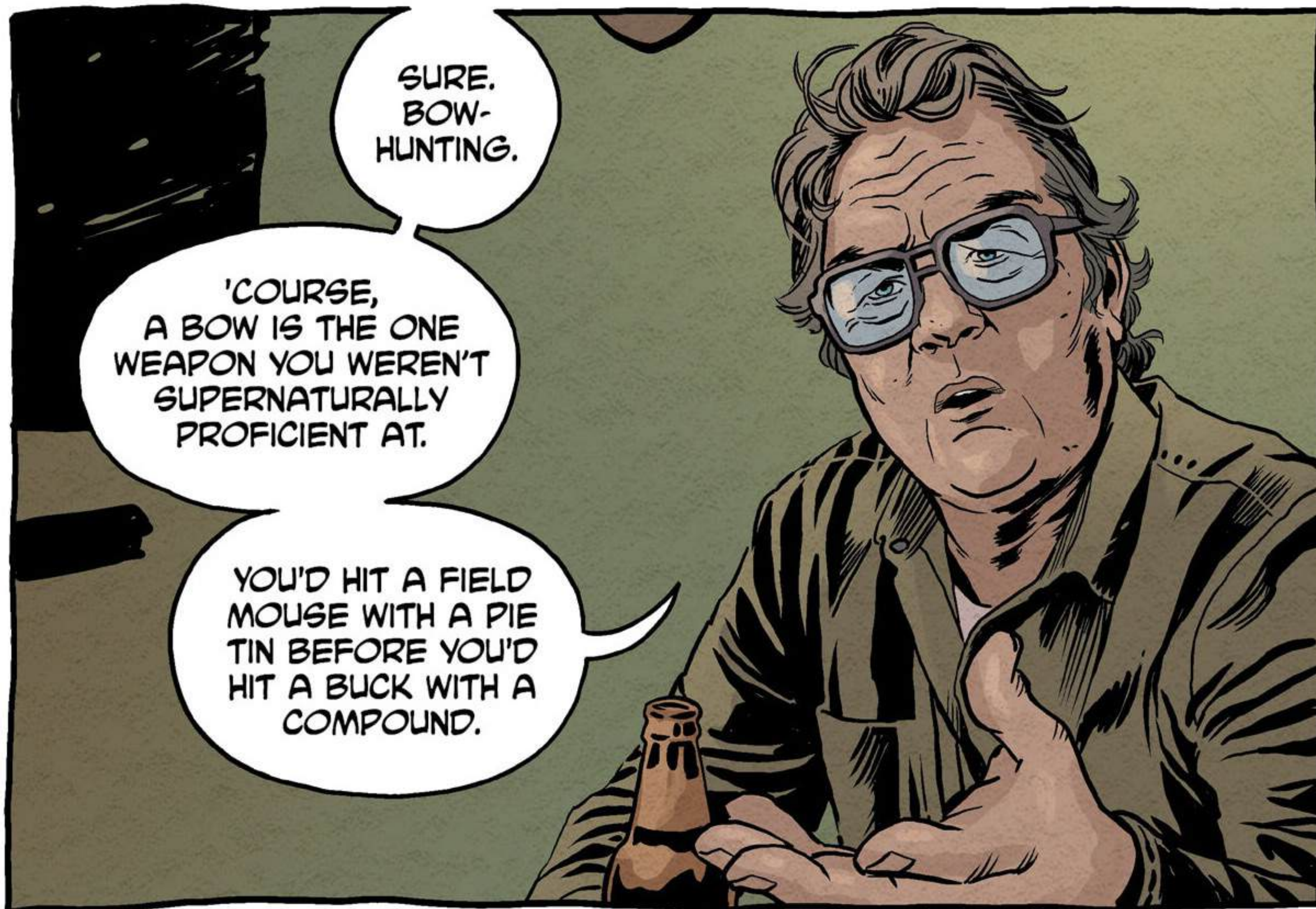




YOU...

Y'KNOW, WITH THIS INDIAN SUMMER WE'RE HAVING, DAD, I FIGURED MAYBE YOU AND I COULD HANG OUT.

MAYBE GO OUT AND DO SOME BOW-HUNTING AND RUSTLE UP SOME VENISON TO COOK UP?



SURE. BOW-HUNTING.

'COURSE, A BOW IS THE ONE WEAPON YOU WEREN'T SUPERNATURALLY PROFICIENT AT.

YOU'D HIT A FIELD MOUSE WITH A PIE TIN BEFORE YOU'D HIT A BUCK WITH A COMPOUND.



OKAY. I'M JUST TRYING TO...



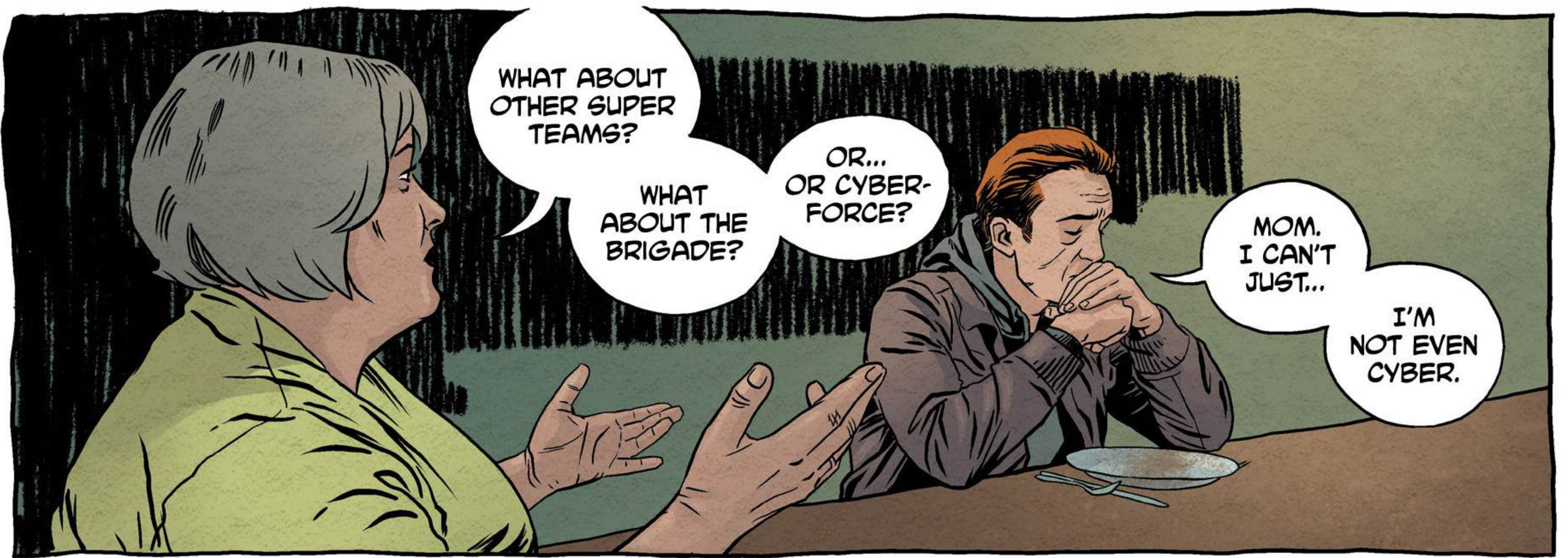
HAVE YOU AT LEAST *TRIED* TO GET YOUR SUPER-JOB BACK?

DID YOU TRY APOLOGIZING TO-

MOM!



LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT, PLEASE.



WHAT ABOUT
OTHER SUPER
TEAMS?

WHAT
ABOUT THE
BRIGADE?

OR...
OR CYBER-
FORCE?

MOM,
I CAN'T
JUST...

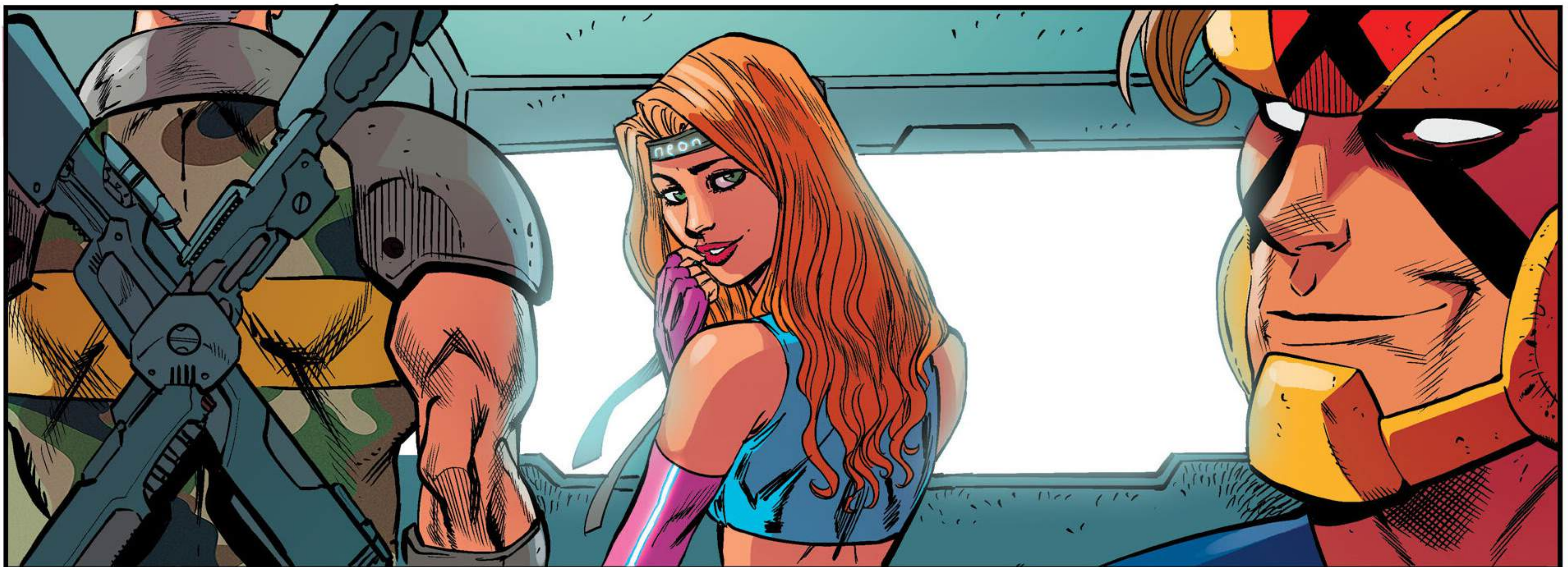
I'M
NOT EVEN
CYBER.



I DON'T KNOW
WHY I CAN'T TALK
ABOUT WHAT
YOU DID.

EVERYBODY
ALREADY
KNOWS.

THE
WHOLE TOWN
KNOWS.



OK.
THIS WAS
GREAT.

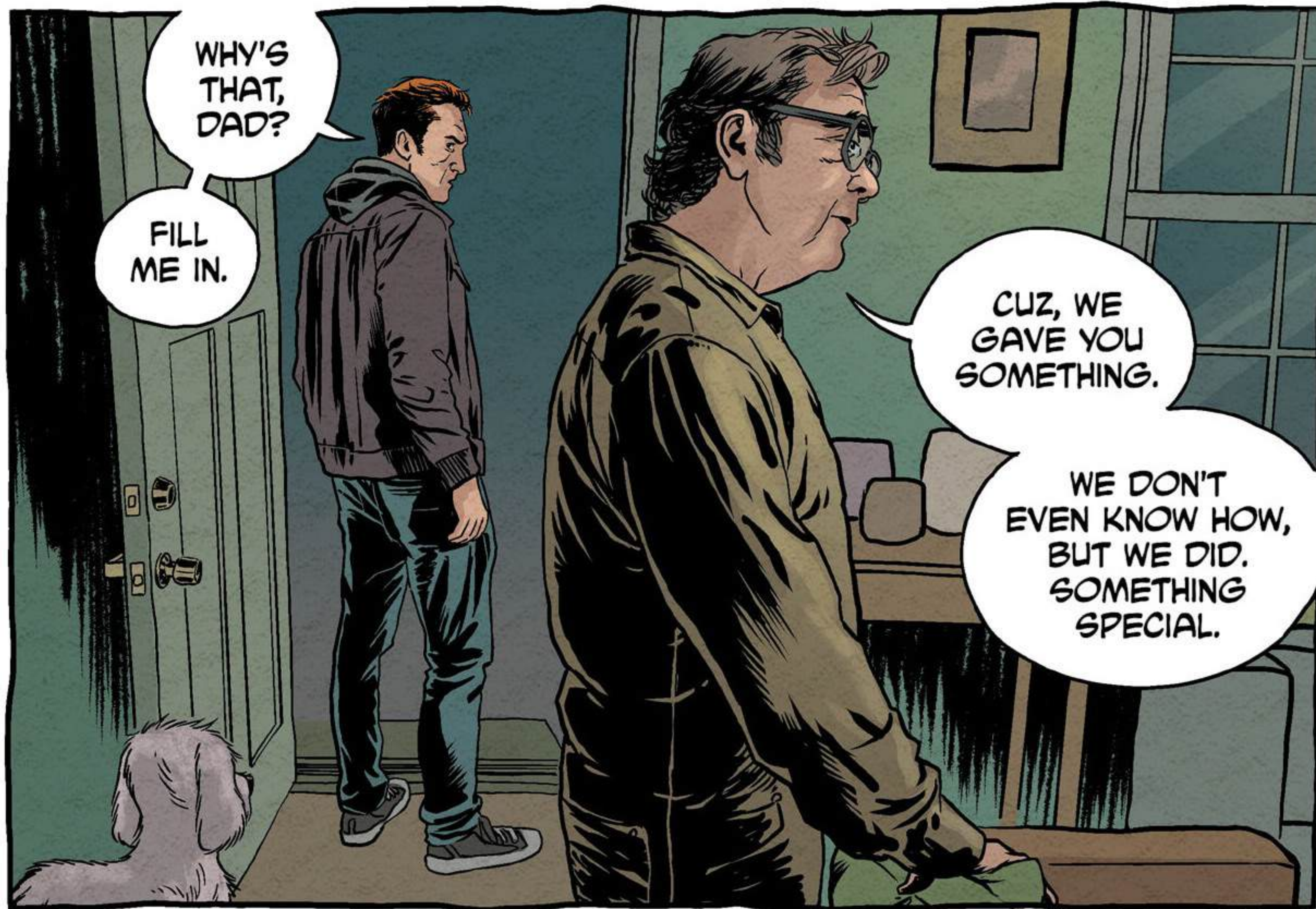
I'M GONNA
GO EAT IN MY
ROOM.

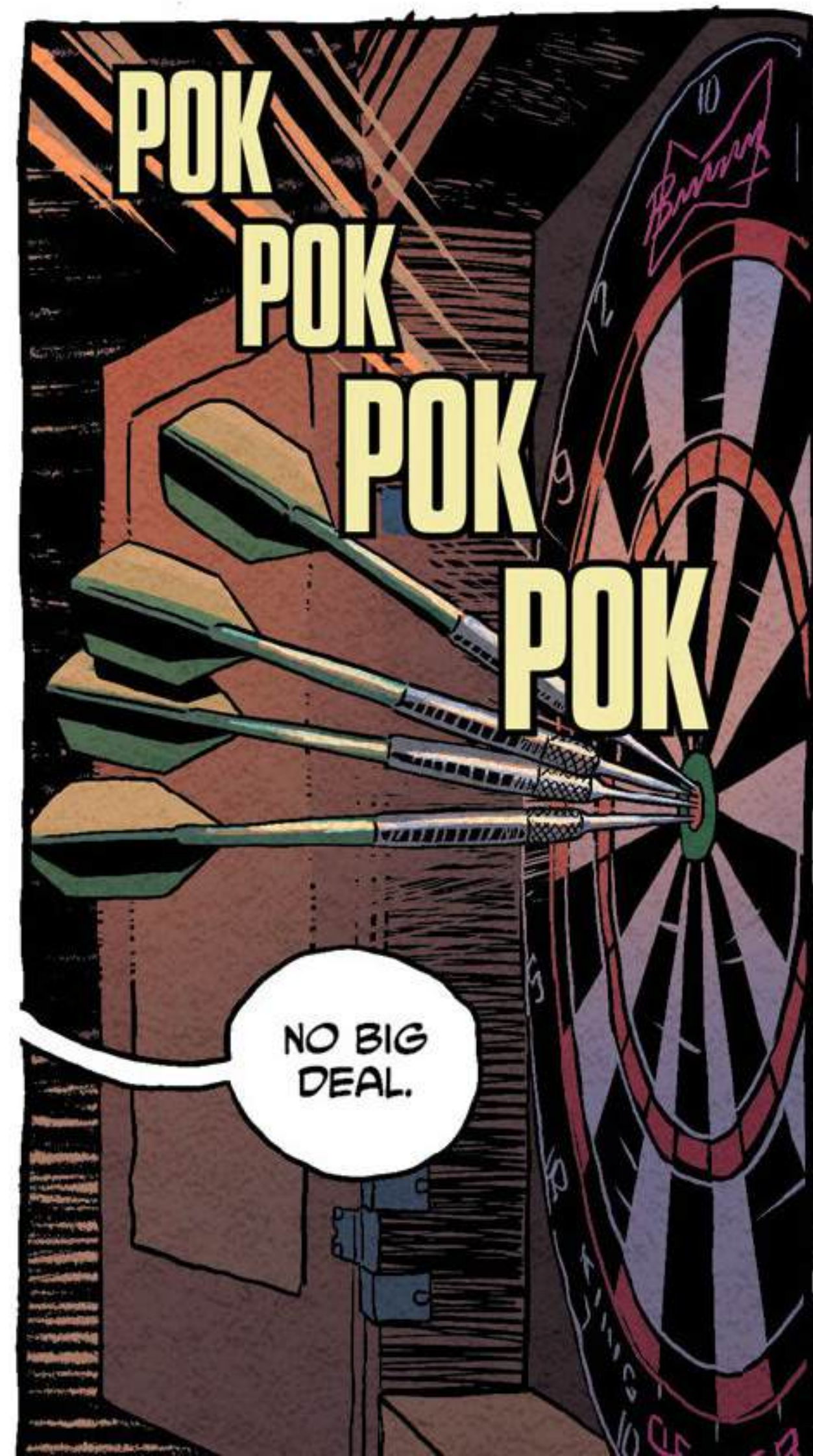
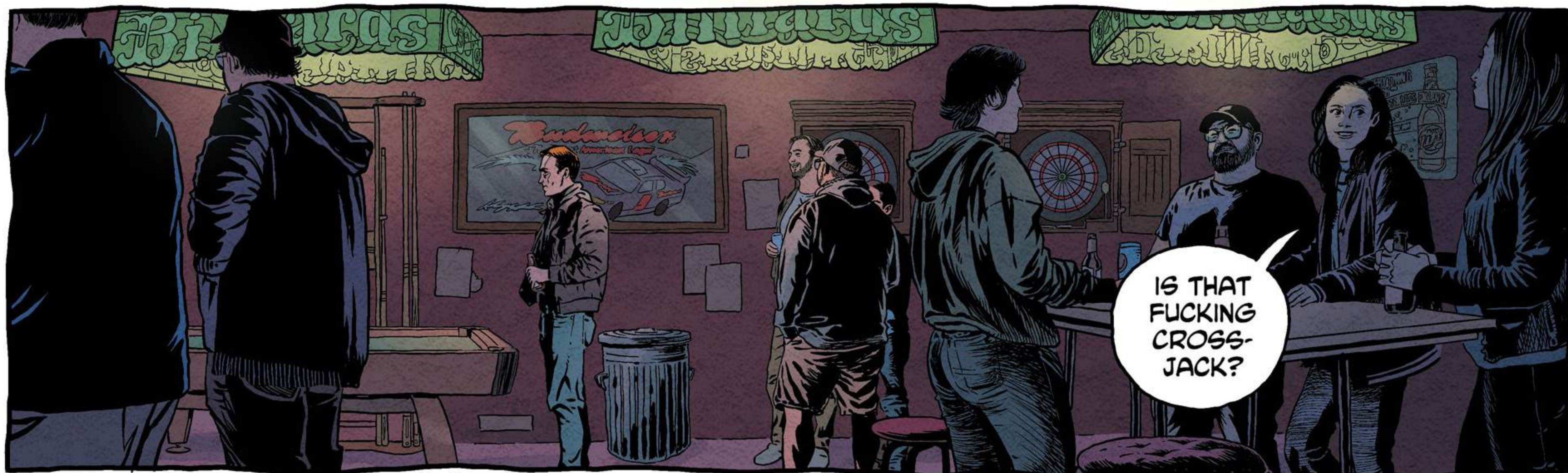
WE MADE
YOUR BEDROOM
INTO MY SEWIN'
ROOM.

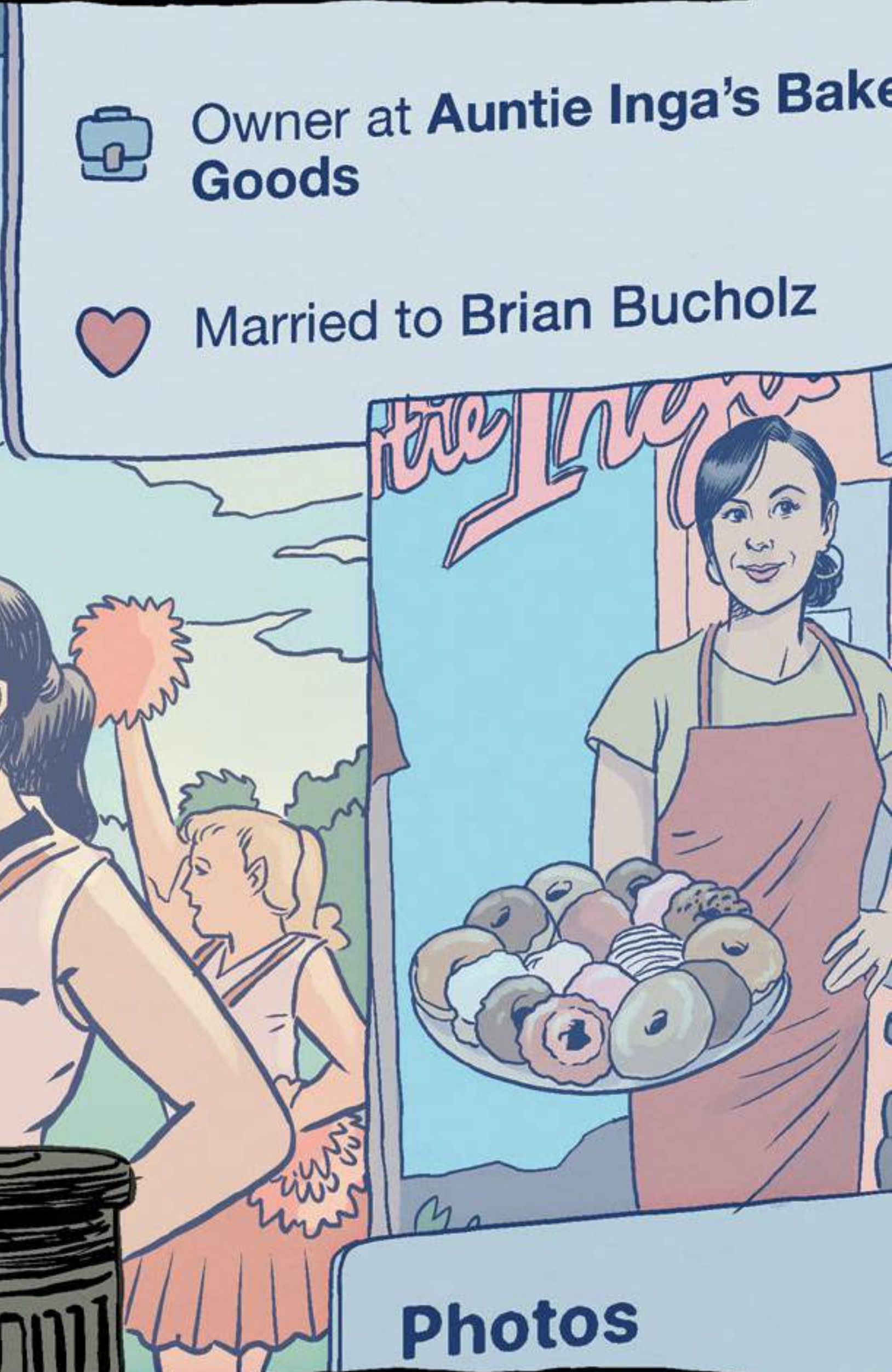
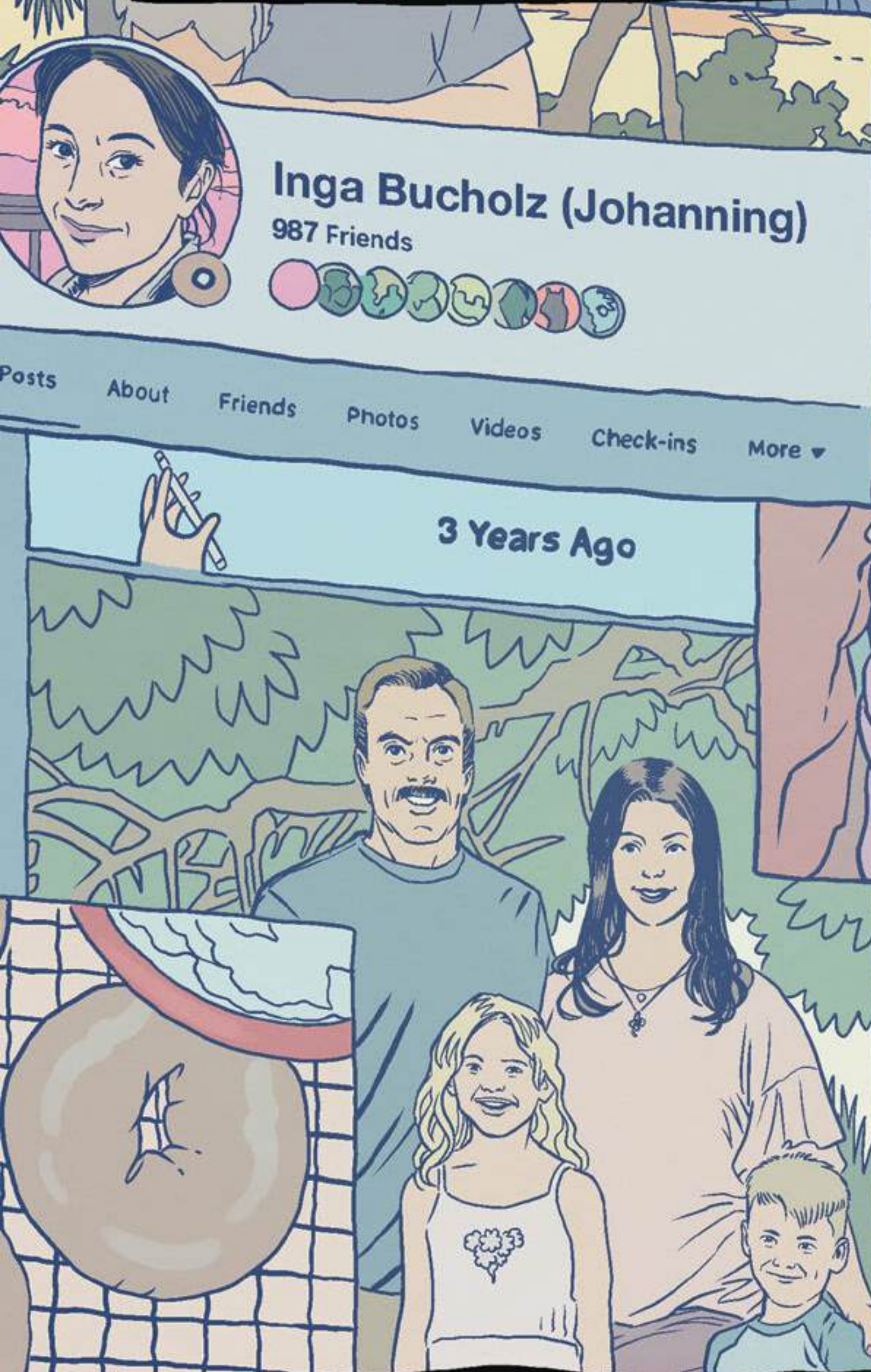
THERE'S
A BED FOR
YOU IN THE
CELLAR.



COOL.













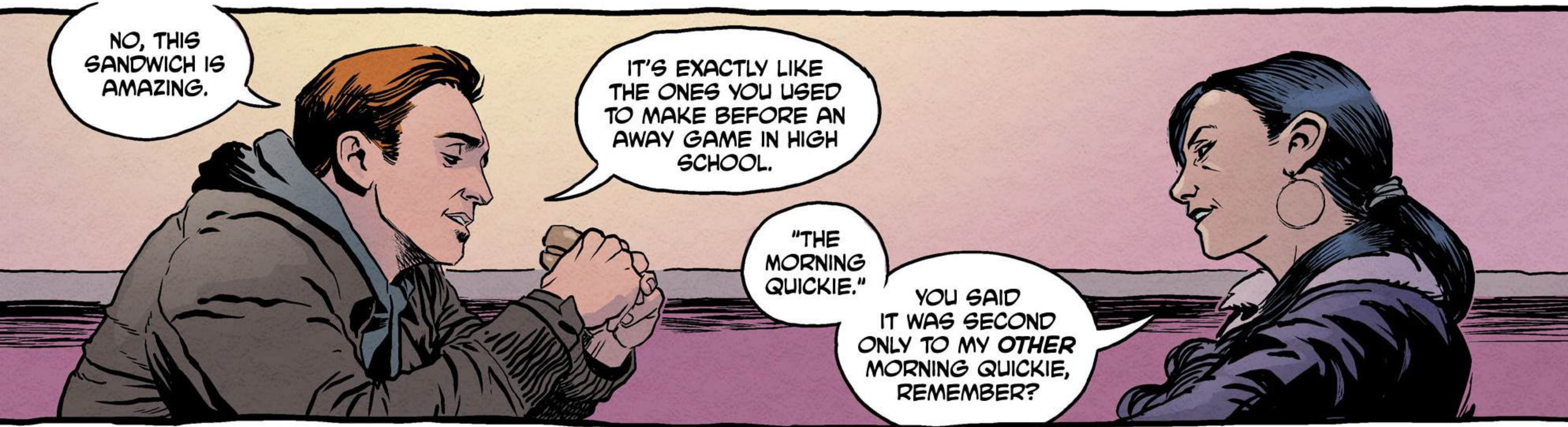


AMAZING.

WHAT, HODAG?

POOR GUY'S GOTTA BE IN HIS LATE 50S. WHO RAMPAGES AT THAT AGE?

YOU KNOW HE'S BERNI OLSON'S SON, RIGHT?



NO, THIS SANDWICH IS AMAZING.

IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE ONES YOU USED TO MAKE BEFORE AN AWAY GAME IN HIGH SCHOOL.

"THE MORNING QUICKIE."

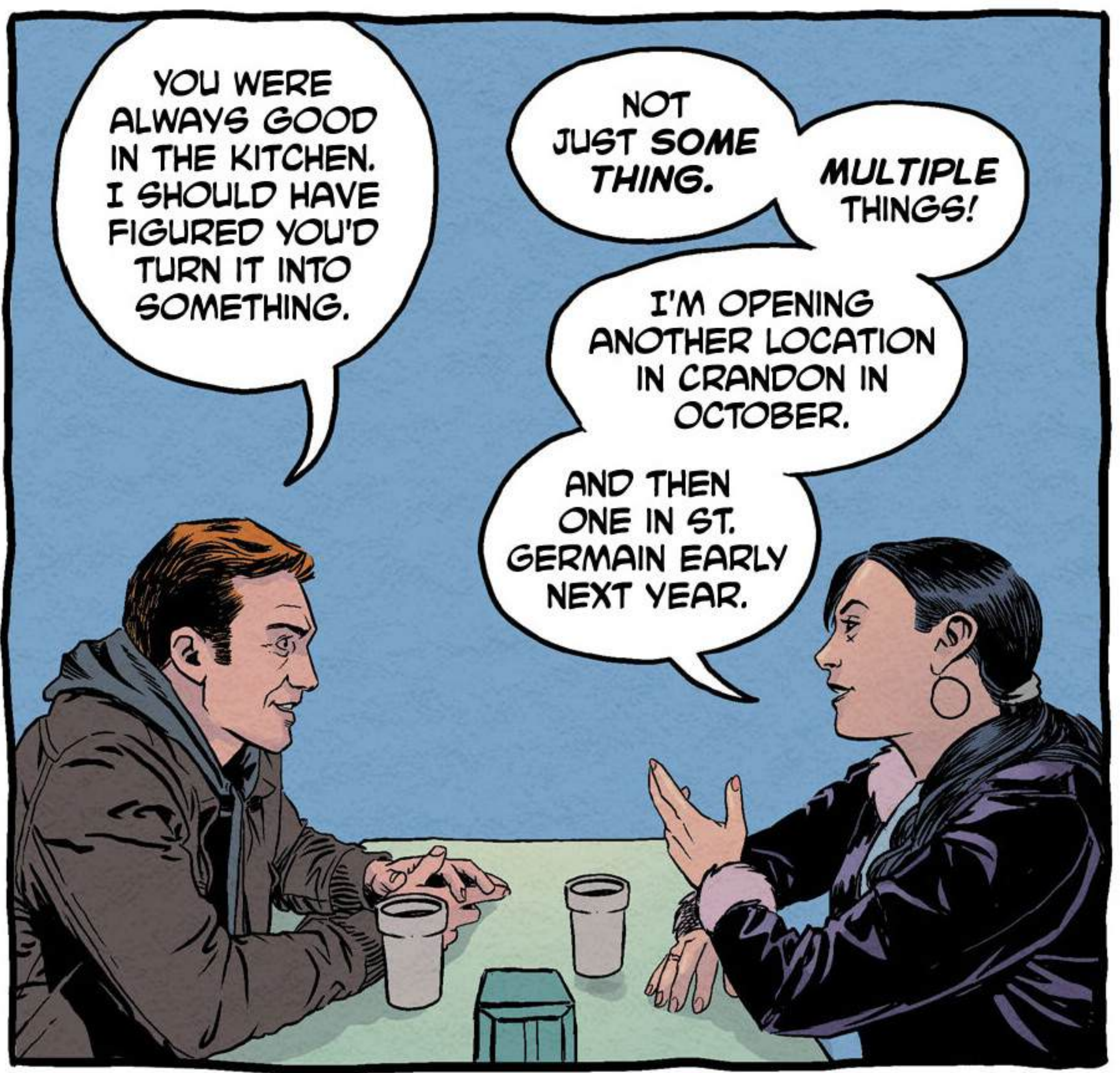
YOU SAID IT WAS SECOND ONLY TO MY OTHER MORNING QUICKIE, REMEMBER?



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WROTE "MORNING QUICKIE" ON YOUR MENU BOARD.

HEY, SEX ALWAYS SELLS.

EVEN EGG SANDWICHES.



YOU WERE ALWAYS GOOD IN THE KITCHEN. I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED YOU'D TURN IT INTO SOMETHING.

NOT JUST SOME THING.

MULTIPLE THINGS!

I'M OPENING ANOTHER LOCATION IN CRANDON IN OCTOBER.

AND THEN ONE IN ST. GERMAIN EARLY NEXT YEAR.



AND THEN AUNTIE INGA WILL TAKE OVER THE WORLD!

MUAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA



HAPPY KIDS, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS, RESPECTABLE HUSBAND.

WE ALWAYS WERE LIKE SHIPS PASSING IN THE NIGHT, WEREN'T WE?

THIS TIME YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY UP... AND I'M...



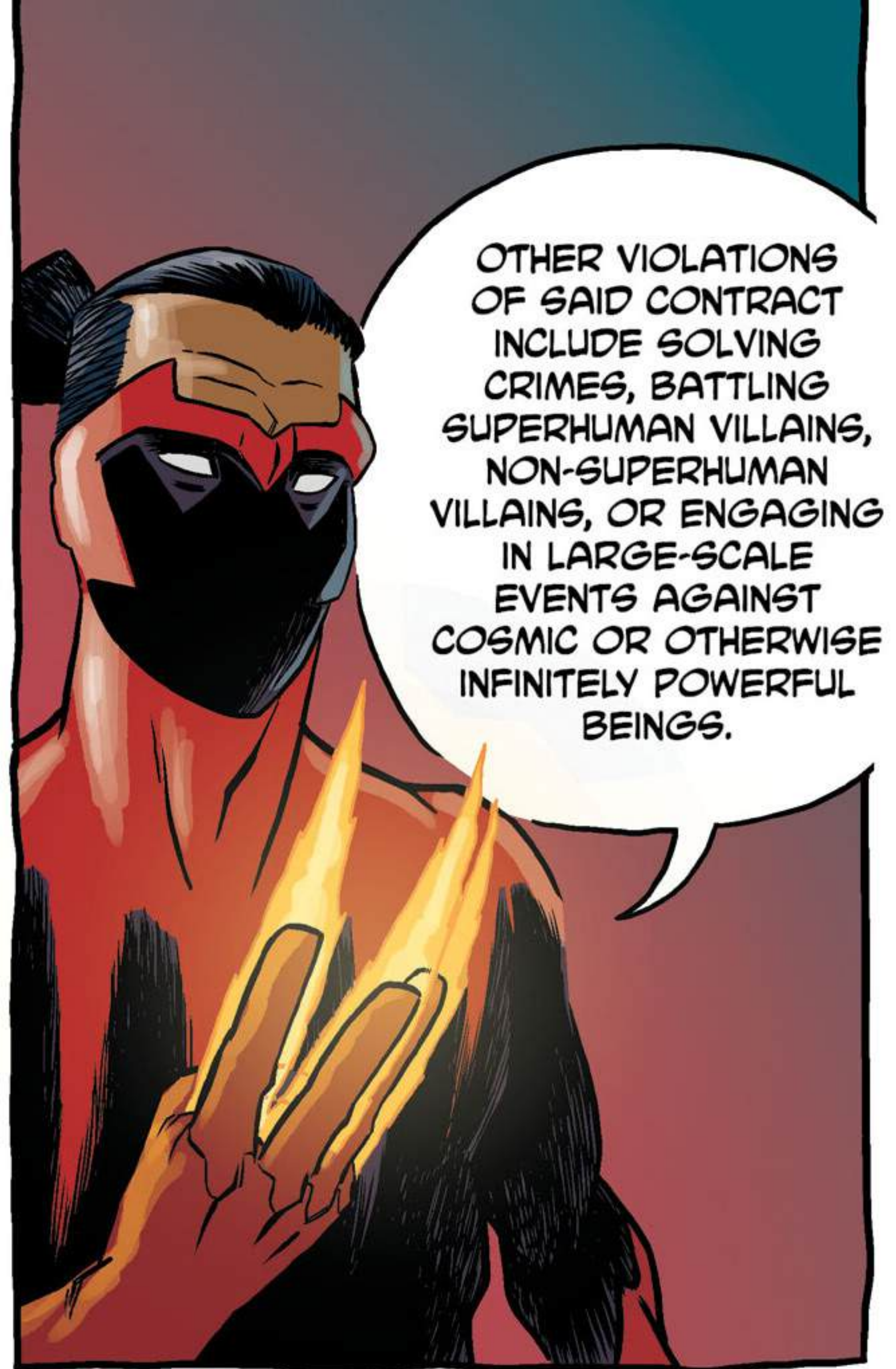
YOU'VE
BEEN
SERVED,
JACK.

AS PER
YOUR CONTRACT
TERMINATION, YOU
AREN'T ALLOWED TO
USE ANY SHIELD--

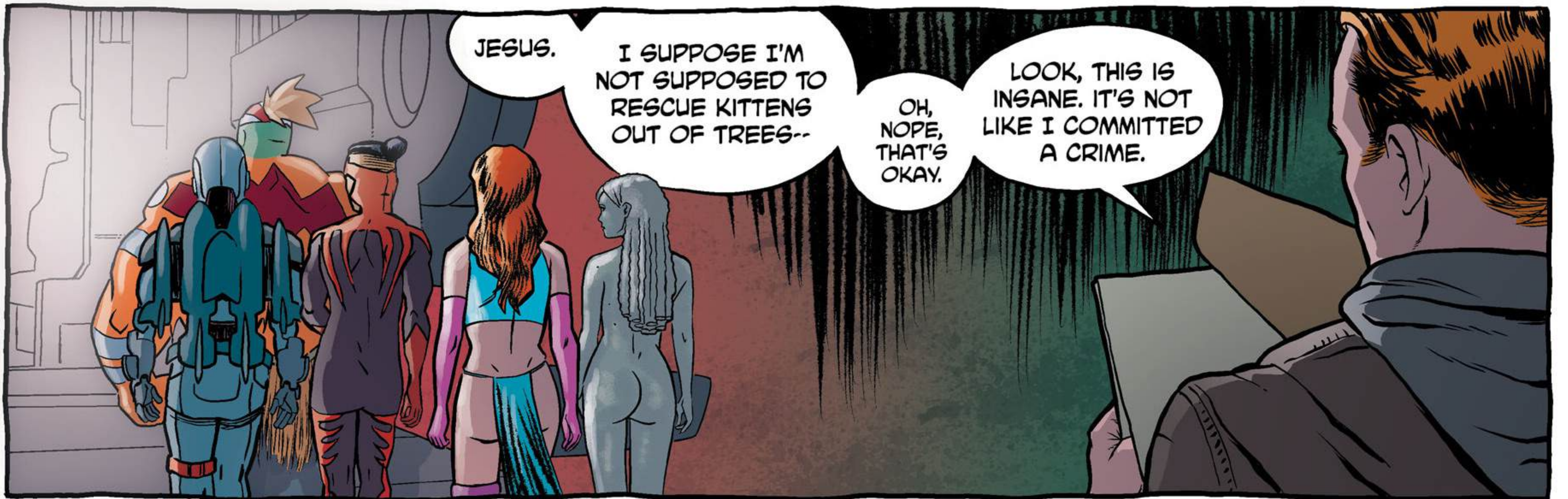
IT WAS A
GARBAGE
CAN LID--

OR
SHIELD-LIKE
OBJECT.

THE NAME
CROSSJACK
IS COPYRIGHTED
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
OF **THIRD GEN
ENTERPRISES**.



OTHER VIOLATIONS
OF SAID CONTRACT
INCLUDE SOLVING
CRIMES, BATTLING
SUPERHUMAN VILLAINS,
NON-SUPERHUMAN
VILLAINS, OR ENGAGING
IN LARGE-SCALE
EVENTS AGAINST
COSMIC OR OTHERWISE
INFINITELY POWERFUL
BEINGS.



JESUS.

I SUPPOSE I'M
NOT SUPPOSED TO
RESCUE KITTENS
OUT OF TREES--

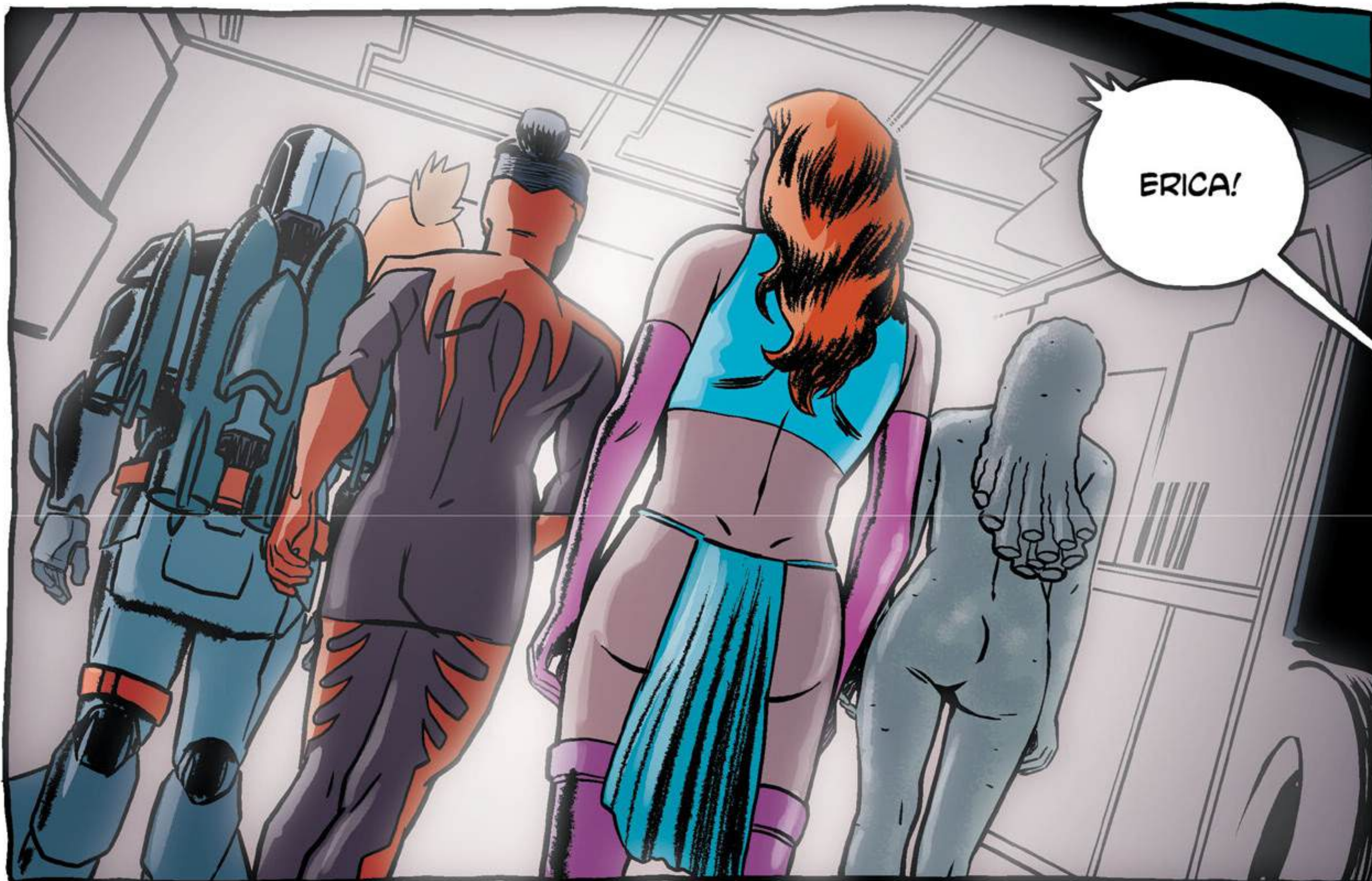
OH,
NOPE,
THAT'S
OKAY.

LOOK, THIS IS
INSANE. IT'S NOT
LIKE I COMMITTED
A CRIME.

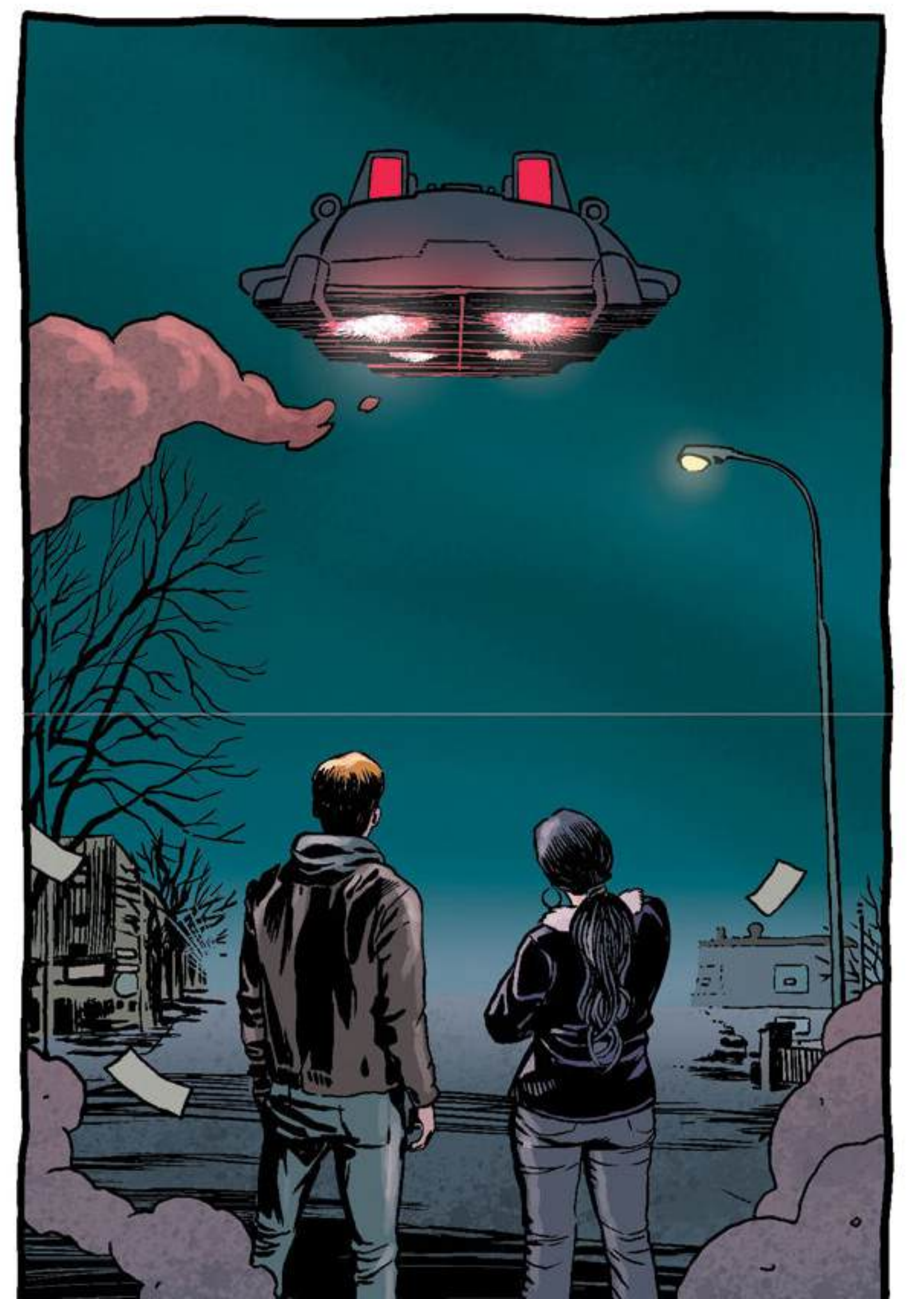


NEON.
TELL THEM
THIS IS
STUPID.

ERICA--!

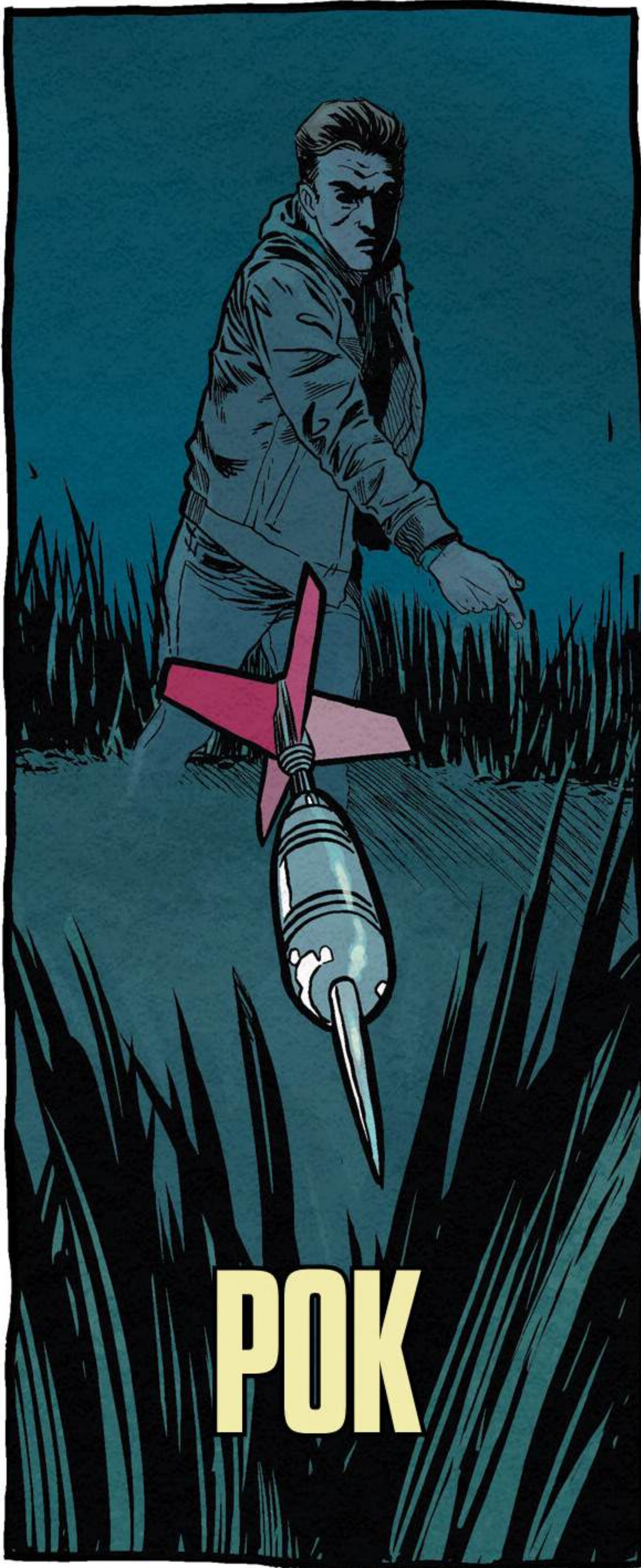


ERICA!











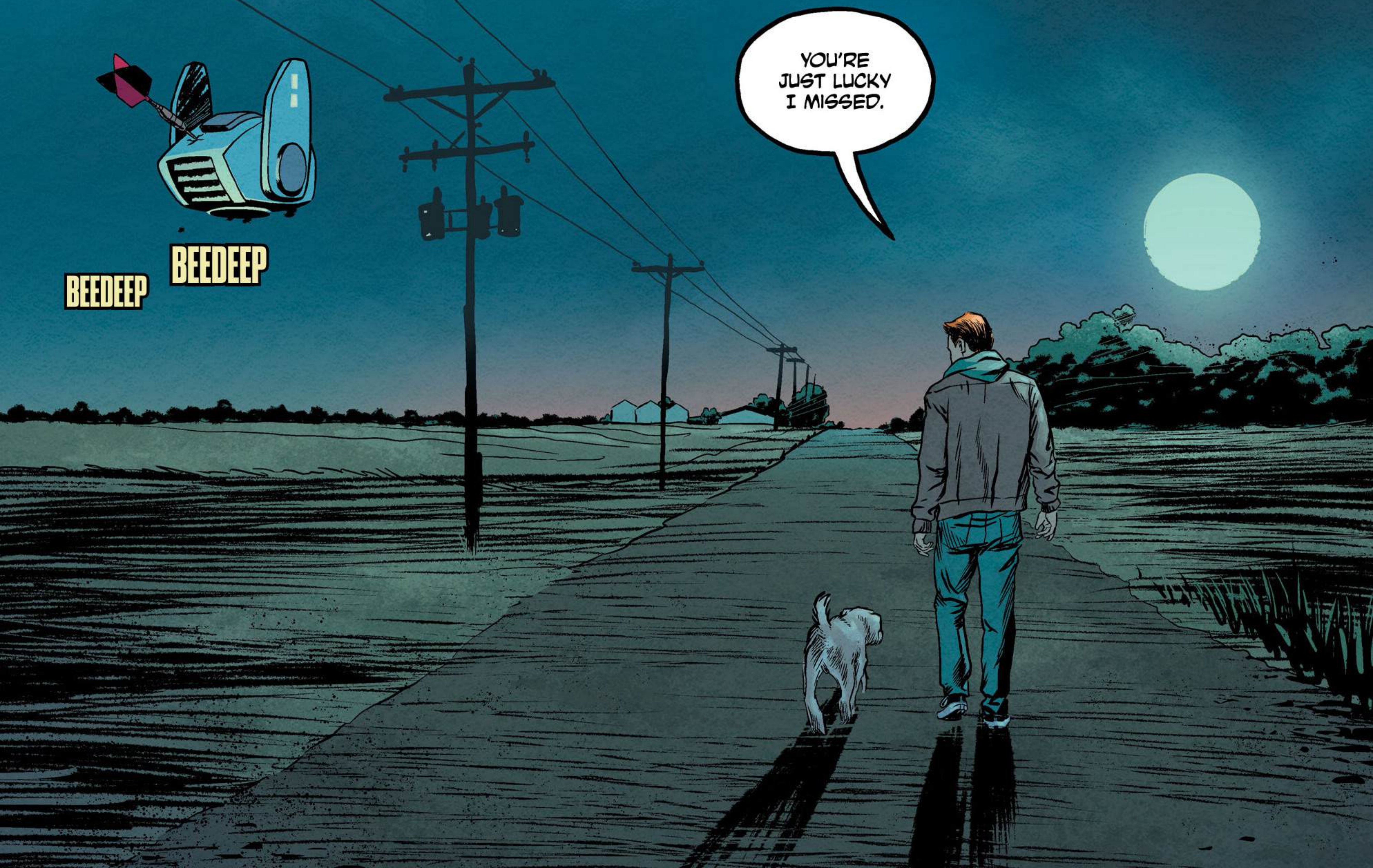
PEPPER?

WHAT'RE YOU
DOING WAY
OUT HERE?



JEEZ, MAYBE
YOU REALLY ARE
INVINCIBLE...

BEEDEEP BEEDEEP BEEDEEP BEEDEEP

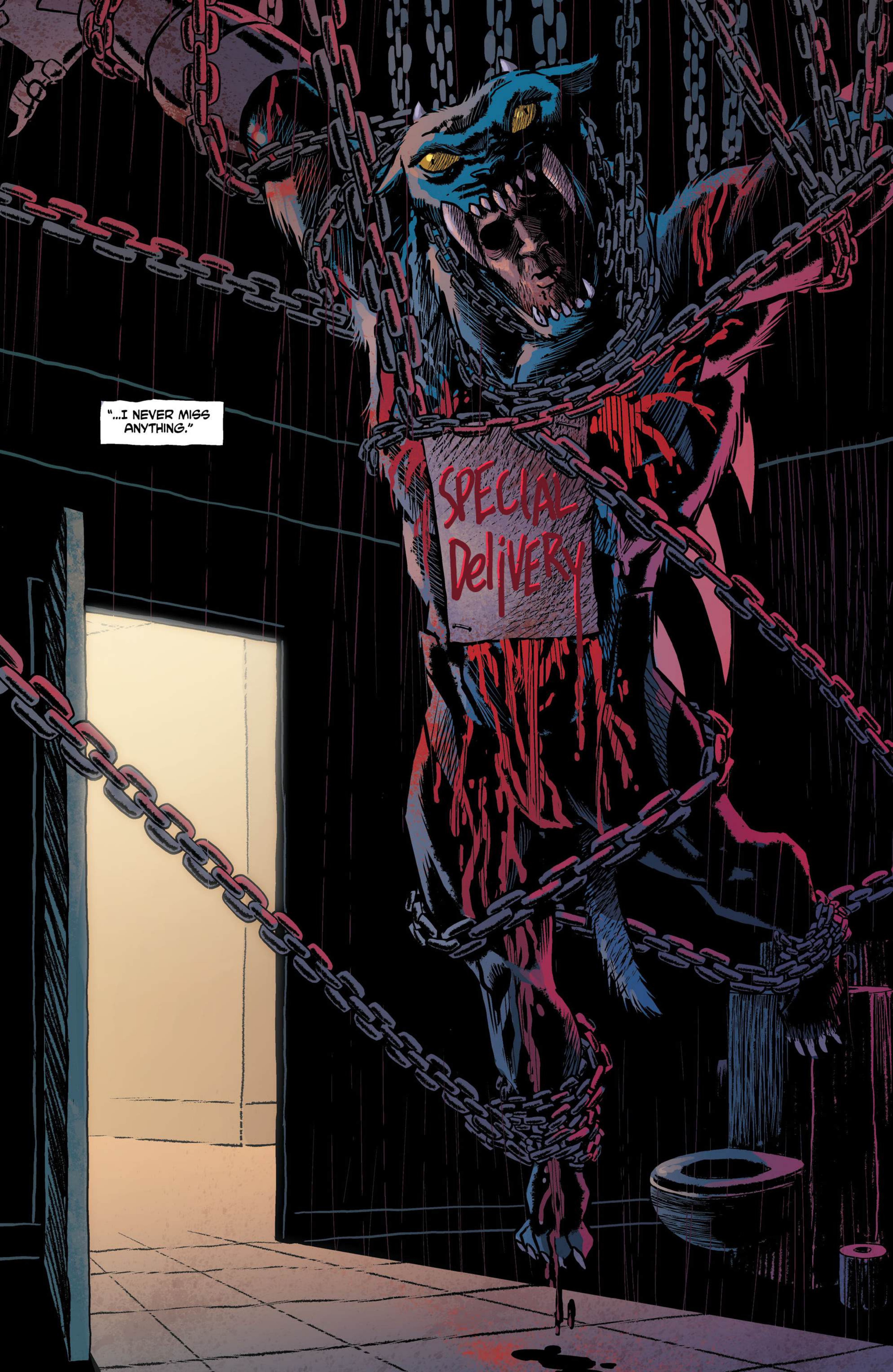


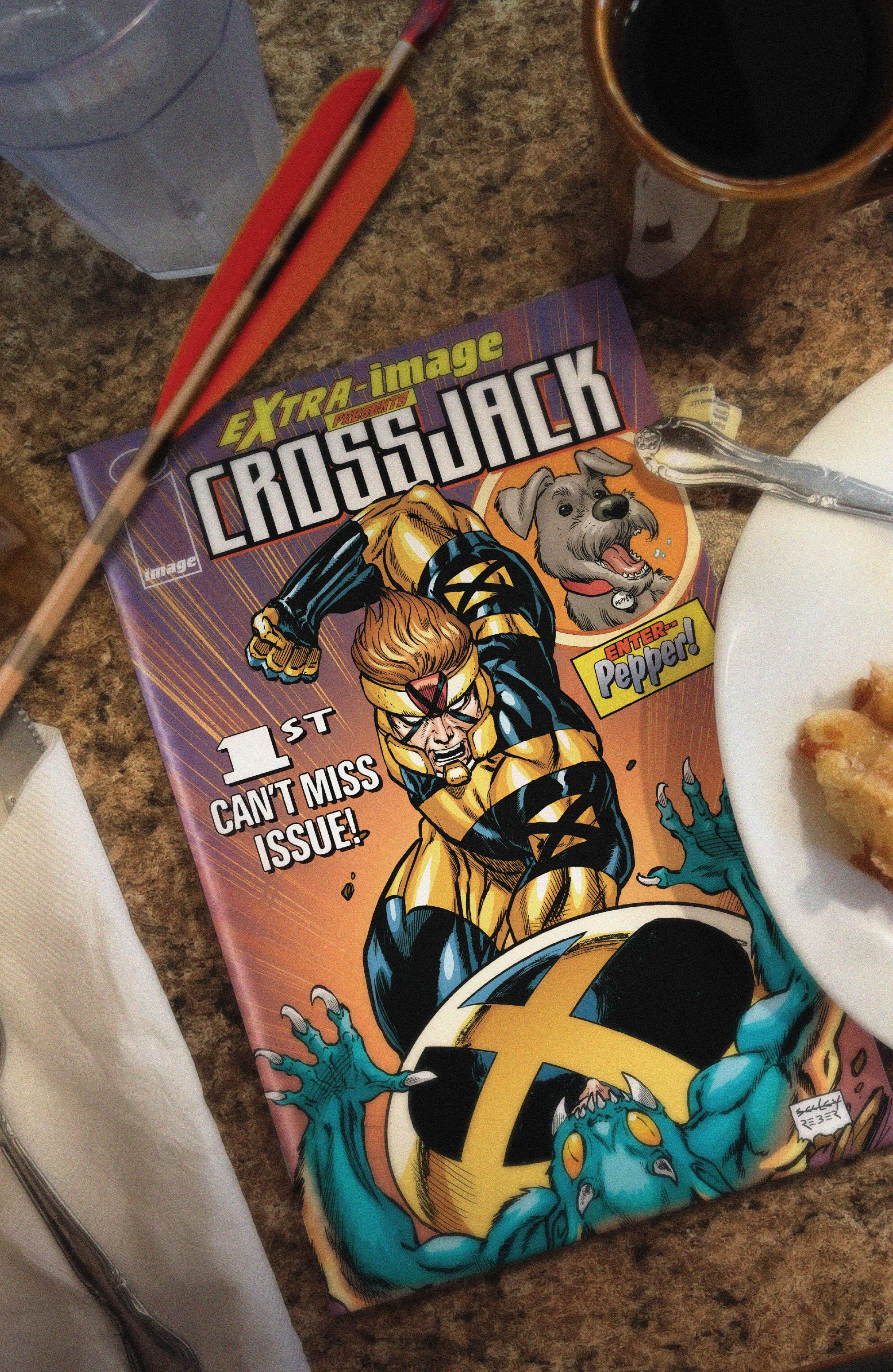
YOU'RE
JUST LUCKY
I MISSED.

BEEDEEP BEEDEEP

"...I NEVER MISS
ANYTHING."

SPECIAL
DELIVERY





EXTRA-image
PRESENTS
CROSSJACK

image

1ST
CAN'T MISS
ISSUE!

ENTER--
Pepper!

sculley
233R



SO WE'RE
JUST JUMPING
RIGHT INTO
THIS?!

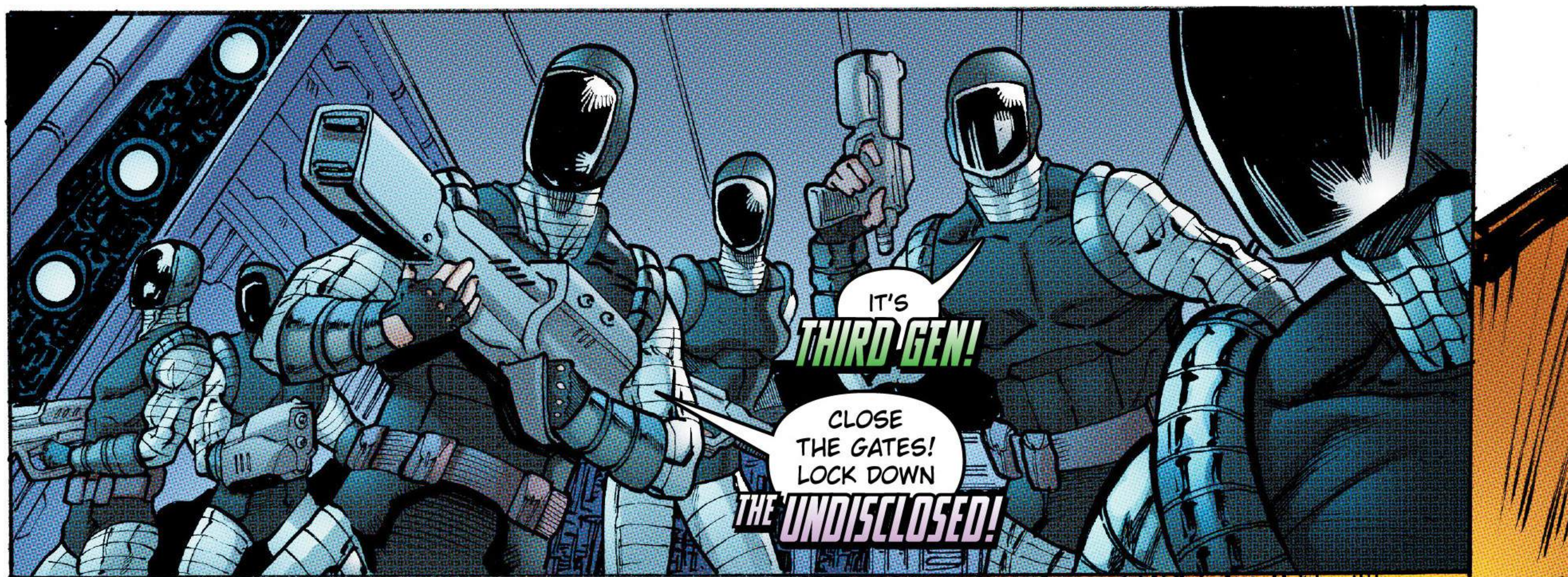
YOU SOUND
SURPRISED,

CROSSJACK.

WE'RE
THE BEST
OF THE BEST.
WHAT WE DO,
NO ONE DOES
BETTER.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO
BE ONE OF US, YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO GET
USED TO A LITTLE--

BAPTISM BY FIRE!



IT'S
THIRD GEN!

CLOSE
THE GATES!
LOCK DOWN
THE UNDISCLOSED!

TAKE
CUTTING EDGE
FOR INSTANCE.

ONE OF THE SMARTEST GUYS
TO EVER COME OUT OF SILICON
VALLEY. BUT HE TURNED DOWN
MILLIONS, BECAUSE BEING RICH
WITH VENGEANCE IS SO
MUCH SWEETER.

WE'VE ALL
DONE IT.

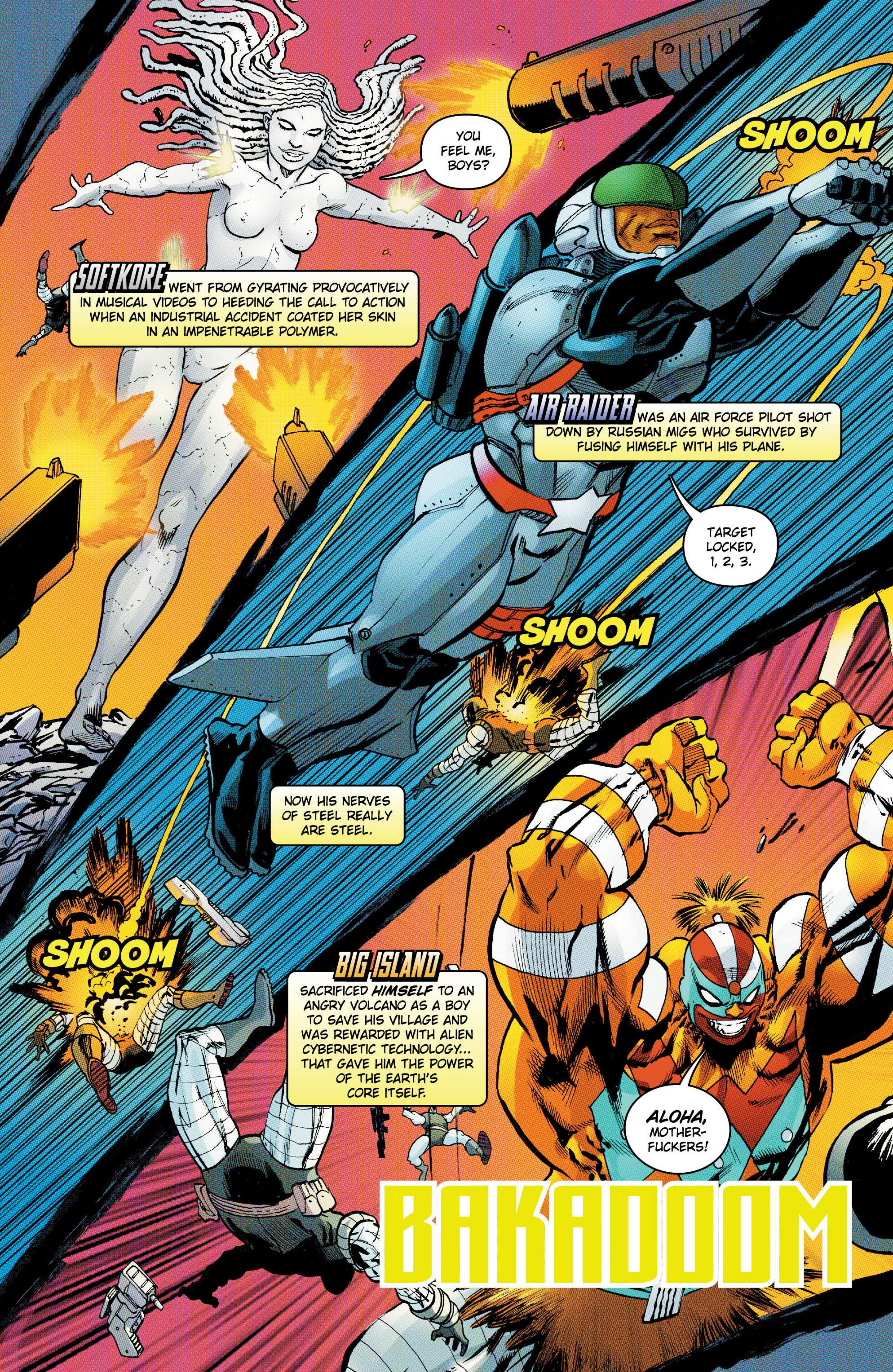
THRAM
HNH!

AT THIS POINT, TAKING
DOWN THUGS LIKE THE
FACELESS HORDES IS
AS SECOND NATURE TO
ME AS PRAYING.

YOUR SECURITY
HAS JUST BEEN
HACKED--

TO DEATH!

SLUKT



YOU
FEEL ME,
BOYS?

SHOOM

SOFTKORE

WENT FROM GYRATING PROVOCATIVELY
IN MUSICAL VIDEOS TO HEEDING THE CALL TO ACTION
WHEN AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COATED HER SKIN
IN AN IMPENETRABLE POLYMER.

AIR-RAIDER

WAS AN AIR FORCE PILOT SHOT
DOWN BY RUSSIAN MIGS WHO SURVIVED BY
FUSING HIMSELF WITH HIS PLANE.

TARGET
LOCKED,
1, 2, 3.

SHOOM

NOW HIS NERVES
OF STEEL REALLY
ARE STEEL.

SHOOM

BIG ISLAND

SACRIFICED *HIMSELF* TO AN
ANGRY VOLCANO AS A BOY
TO SAVE HIS VILLAGE AND
WAS REWARDED WITH ALIEN
CYBERNETIC TECHNOLOGY...
THAT GAVE HIM THE POWER
OF THE EARTH'S
CORE ITSELF.

ALOHA,
MOTHER-
FUCKERS!

BAKADOOM



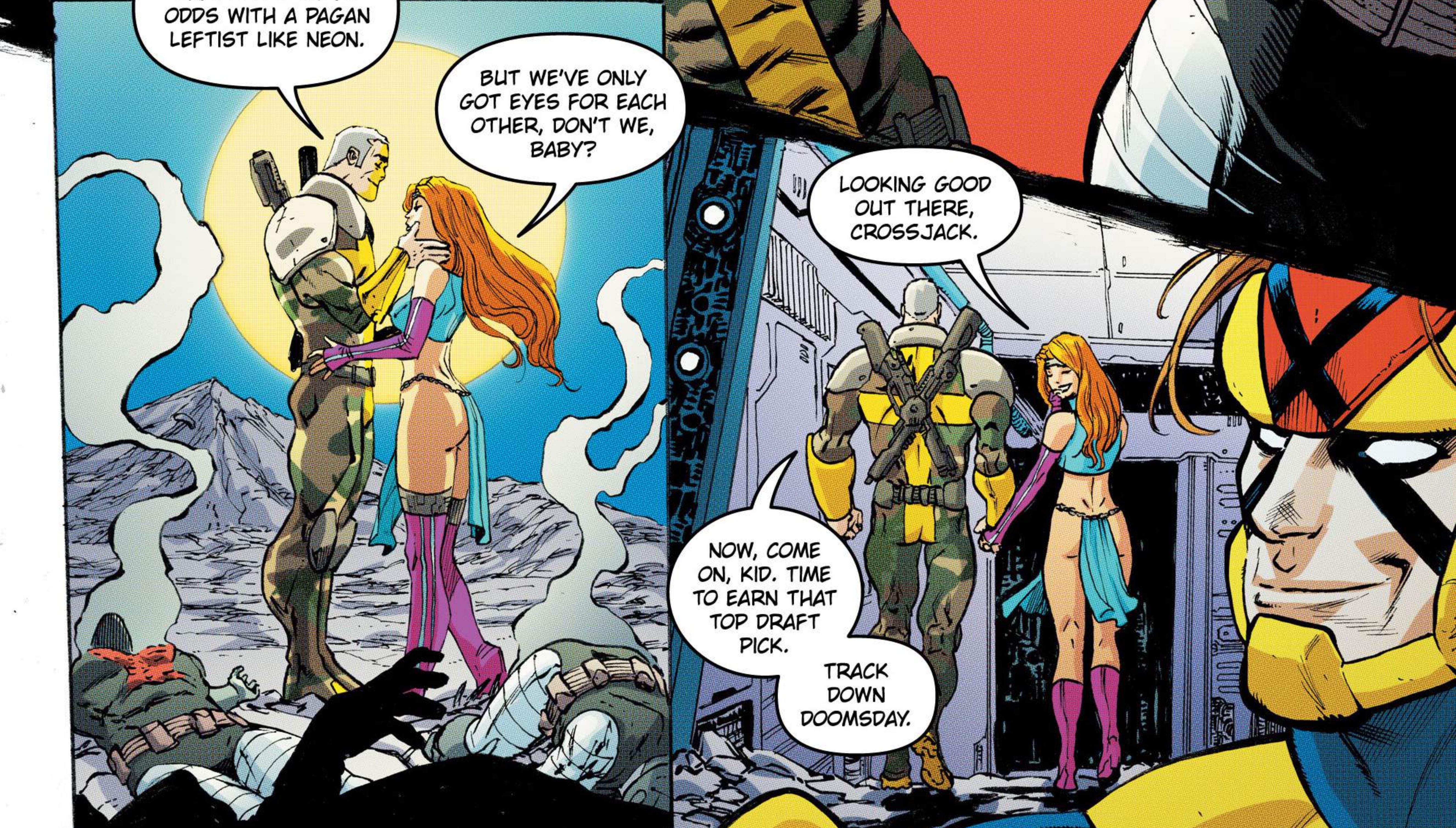
NEON WAS ENVELOPED BY EXTRADIMENSIONAL VAPORS ON HER HIPPIE COMMUNE WHICH GAVE HER THE ABILITY TO CONTROL AND EMIT LASER LIGHT, MAKING HER A DEADLY ANGEL OF THE NIGHT.



AND, ME, I'M THE GOD-BLESSED
CAMD CRUSADER
CHOSEN AS THE SAVIOR OF CHRISTIAN MORALITY AND THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT'D PUT ME AT ODDS WITH A PAGAN LEFTIST LIKE NEON.

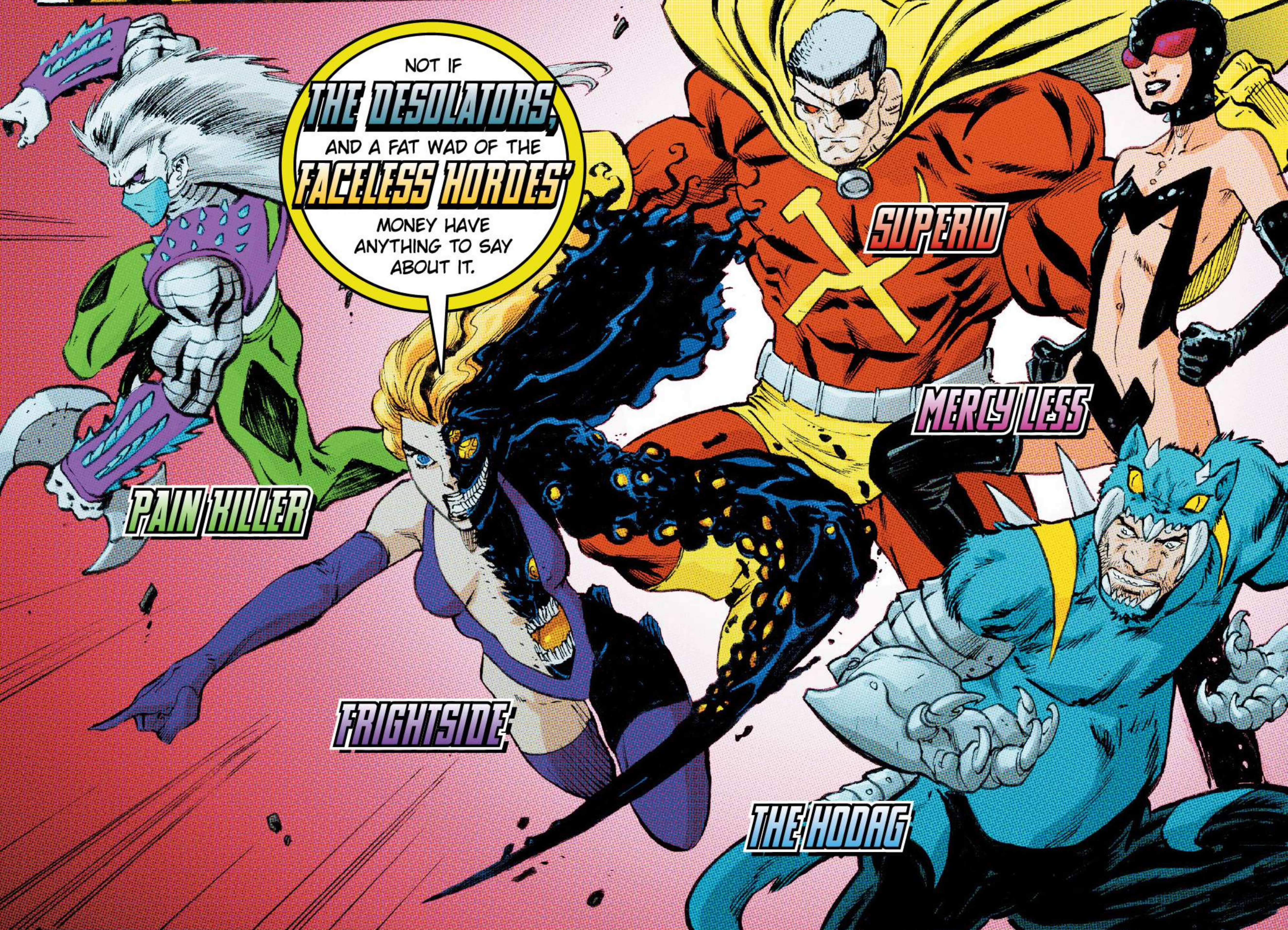
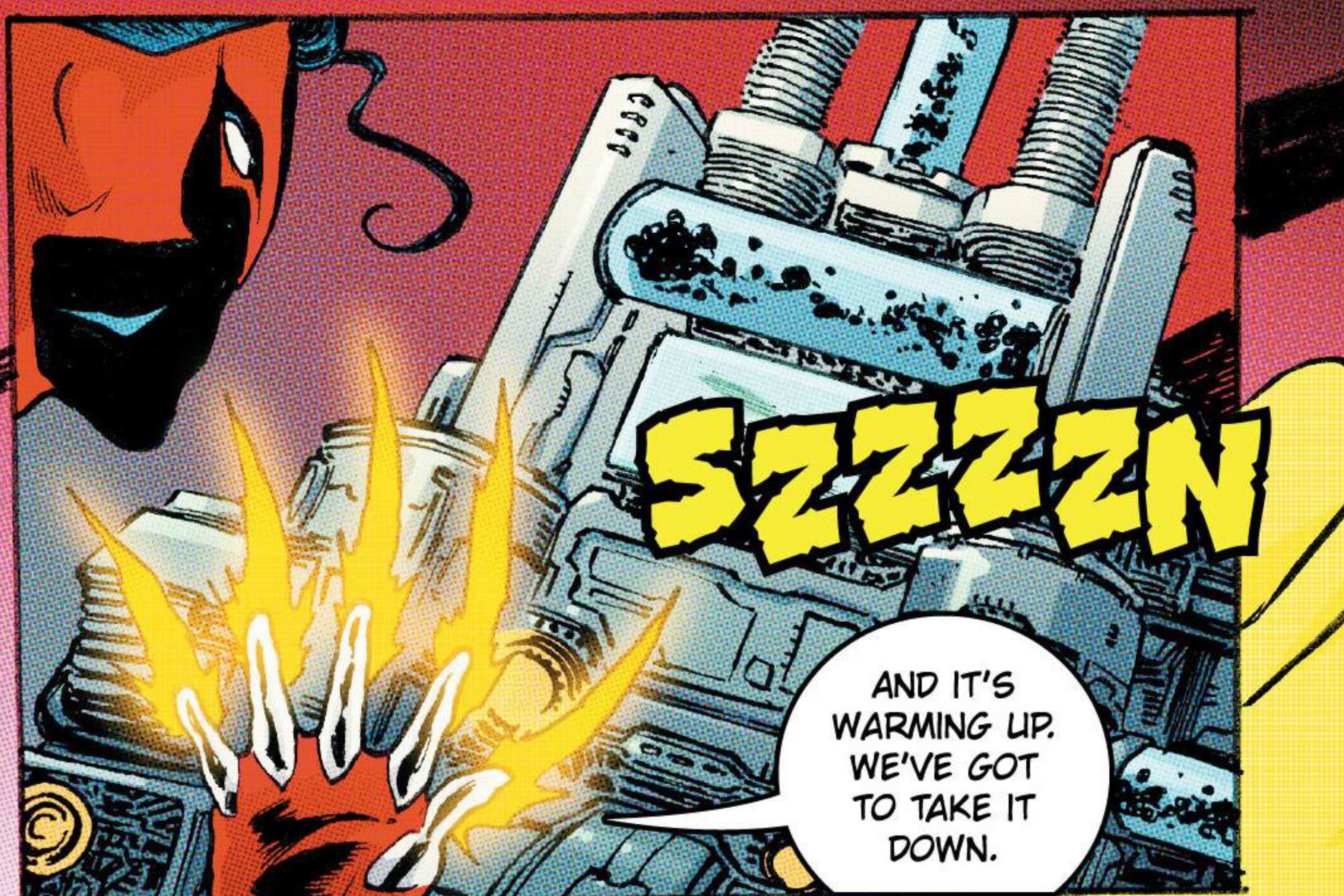
BUT WE'VE ONLY GOT EYES FOR EACH OTHER, DON'T WE, BABY?



LOOKING GOOD OUT THERE, CROSSJACK.

NOW, COME ON, KID. TIME TO EARN THAT TOP DRAFT PICK.

TRACK DOWN DOOMSDAY.





CUTE.

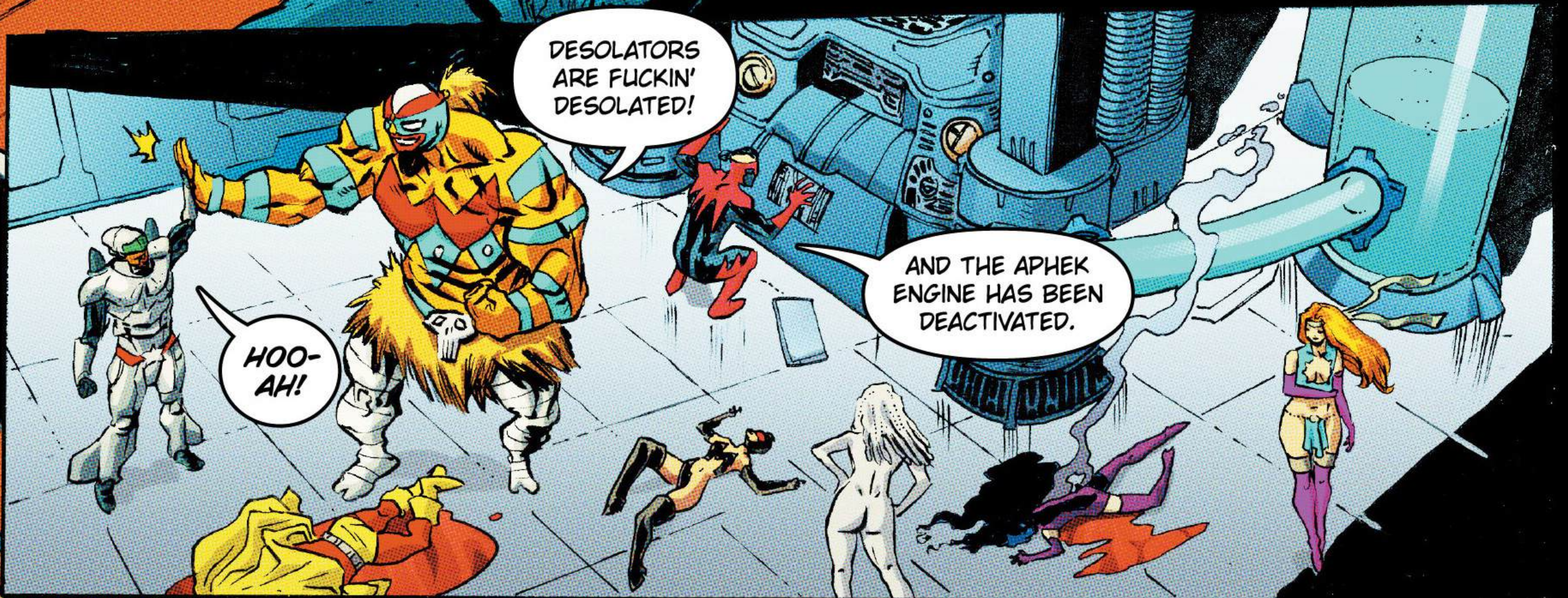
THRAKDOOM



WHOK
THROK

THIRD
GEN!
REPORT!

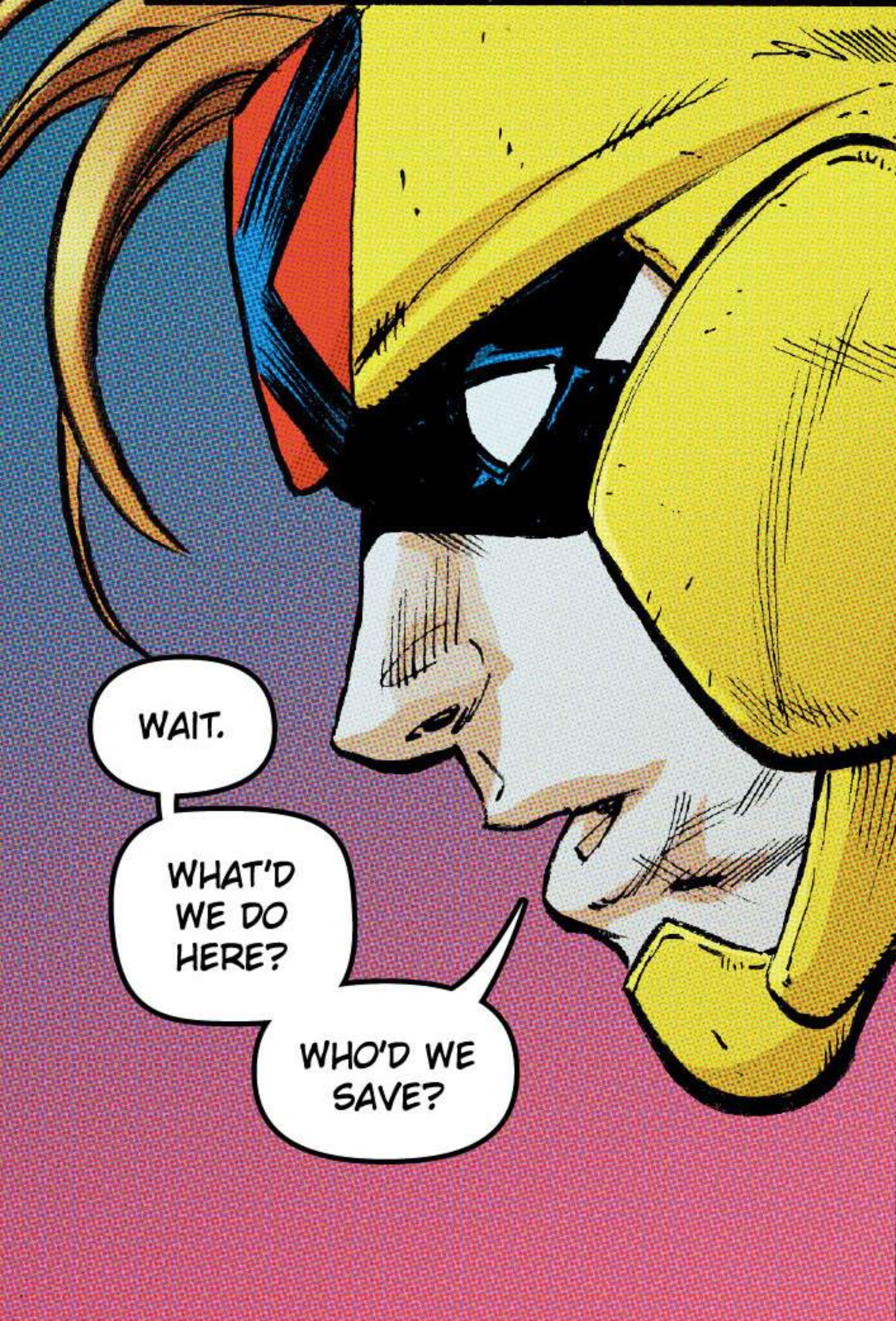
THRAM
SPLOK



DESOLATORS
ARE FUCKIN'
DESOLATED!

HOO-
AH!

AND THE APHEK
ENGINE HAS BEEN
DEACTIVATED.



WAIT.

WHAT'D
WE DO
HERE?

WHO'D WE
SAVE?



DOES IT
MATTER?
WE WON!

AND WE
LOOKED
COOL
DOING IT.



YEAH.
YEAH
RIGHT.
COOL.

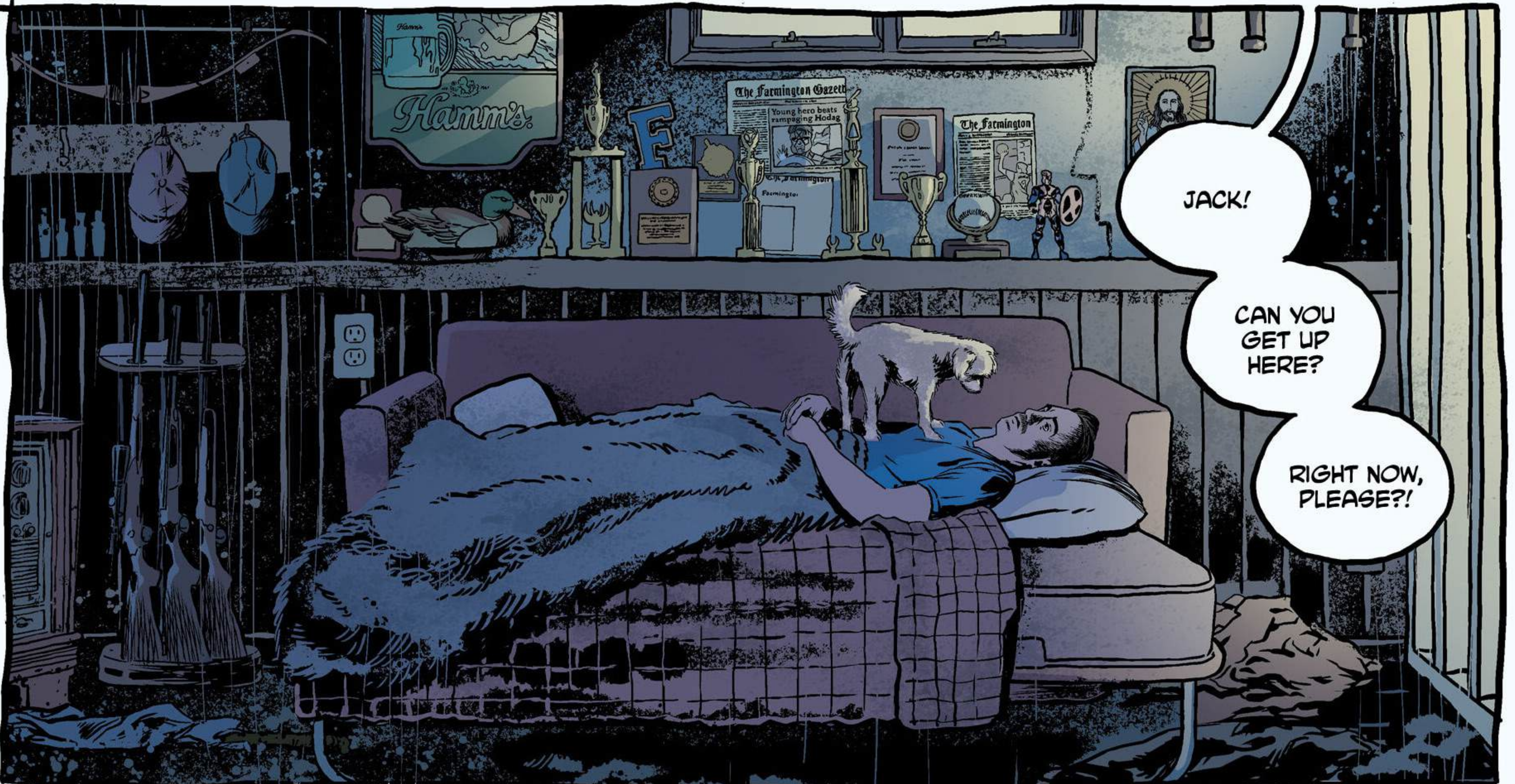
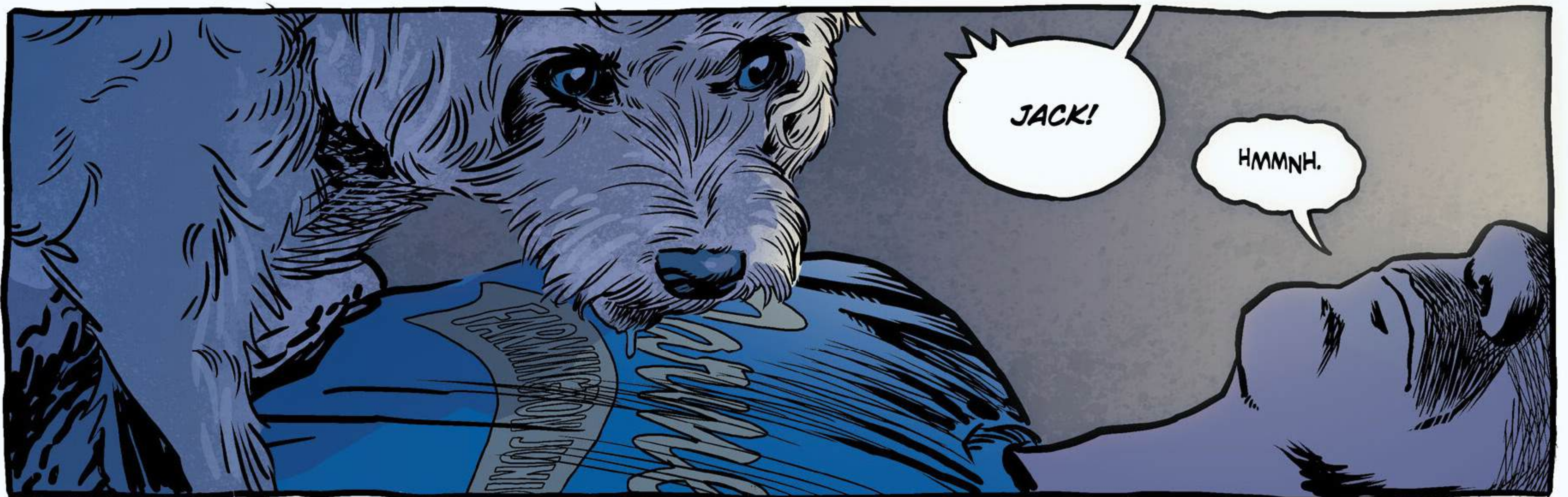
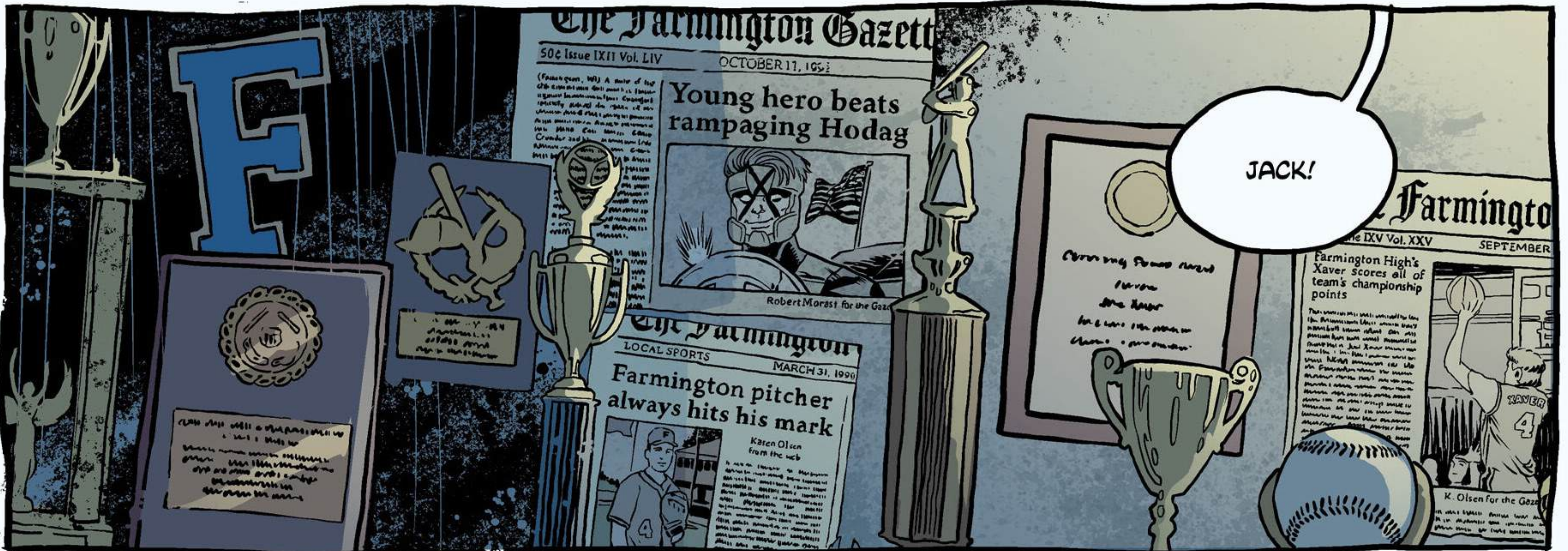
NHHH.

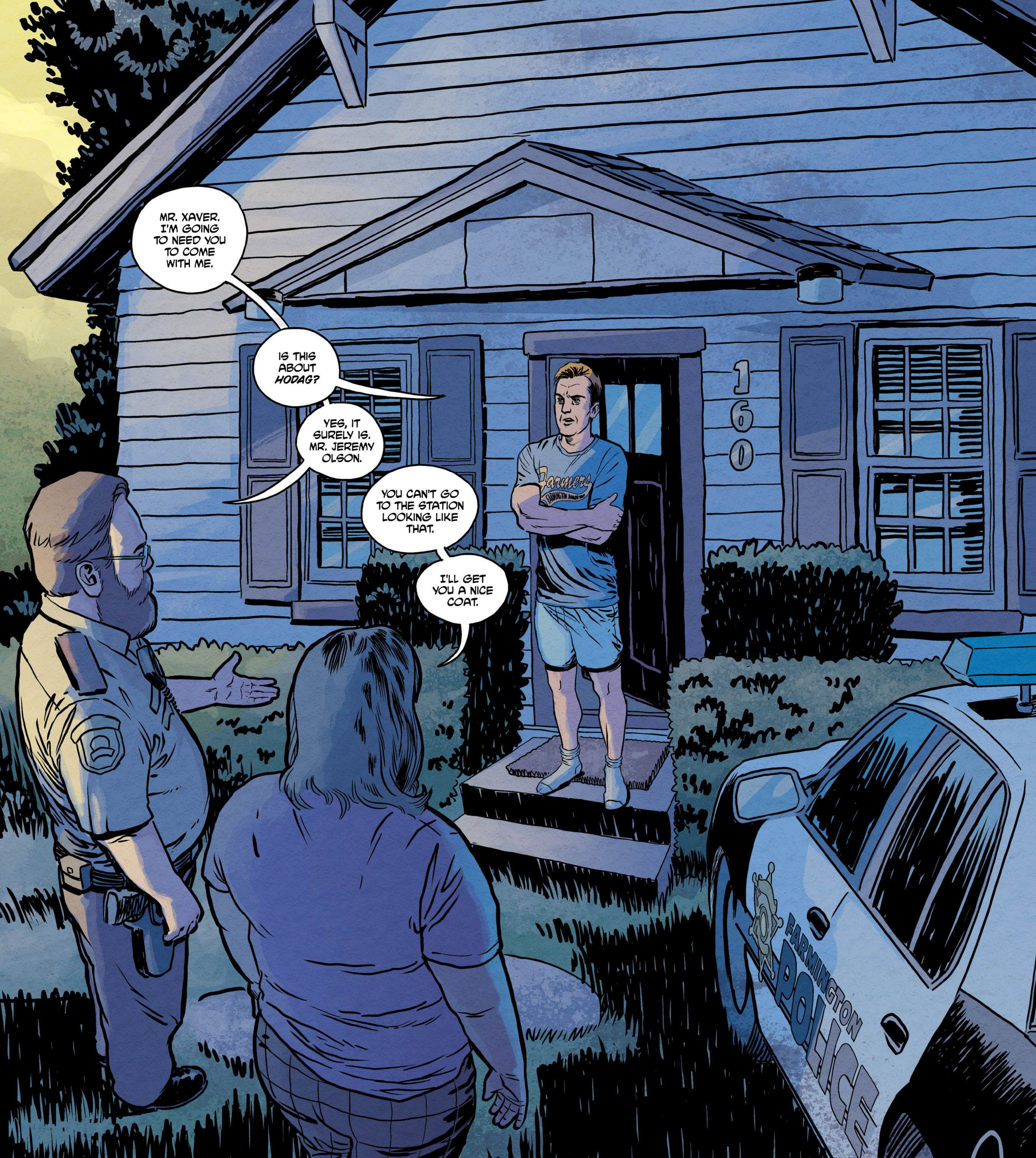
NEXT
ISSUE.

WHO ARE THE FOURTH GEN?
BE HERE FOR GEN-CADEMY!

Chapter 2







MR. XAVER,
I'M GOING
TO NEED YOU
TO COME
WITH ME.

IS THIS
ABOUT
HODAG?

YES, IT
SURELY IS.
MR. JEREMY
OLSON.

YOU CAN'T GO
TO THE STATION
LOOKING LIKE
THAT.

I'LL GET
YOU A NICE
COAT.



LOOK, HE
STARTED IT.

WE HAVE
HISTORY...

I'M GOING TO
NEED YOU TO
WEAR CUFFS.



WHY?

CUZ
YOU TURN
INVISIBLE,
YEAH?

NO.

SUPER-
STRENGTH
THEN?



WHAT ARE
WE CALLING
SUPER?

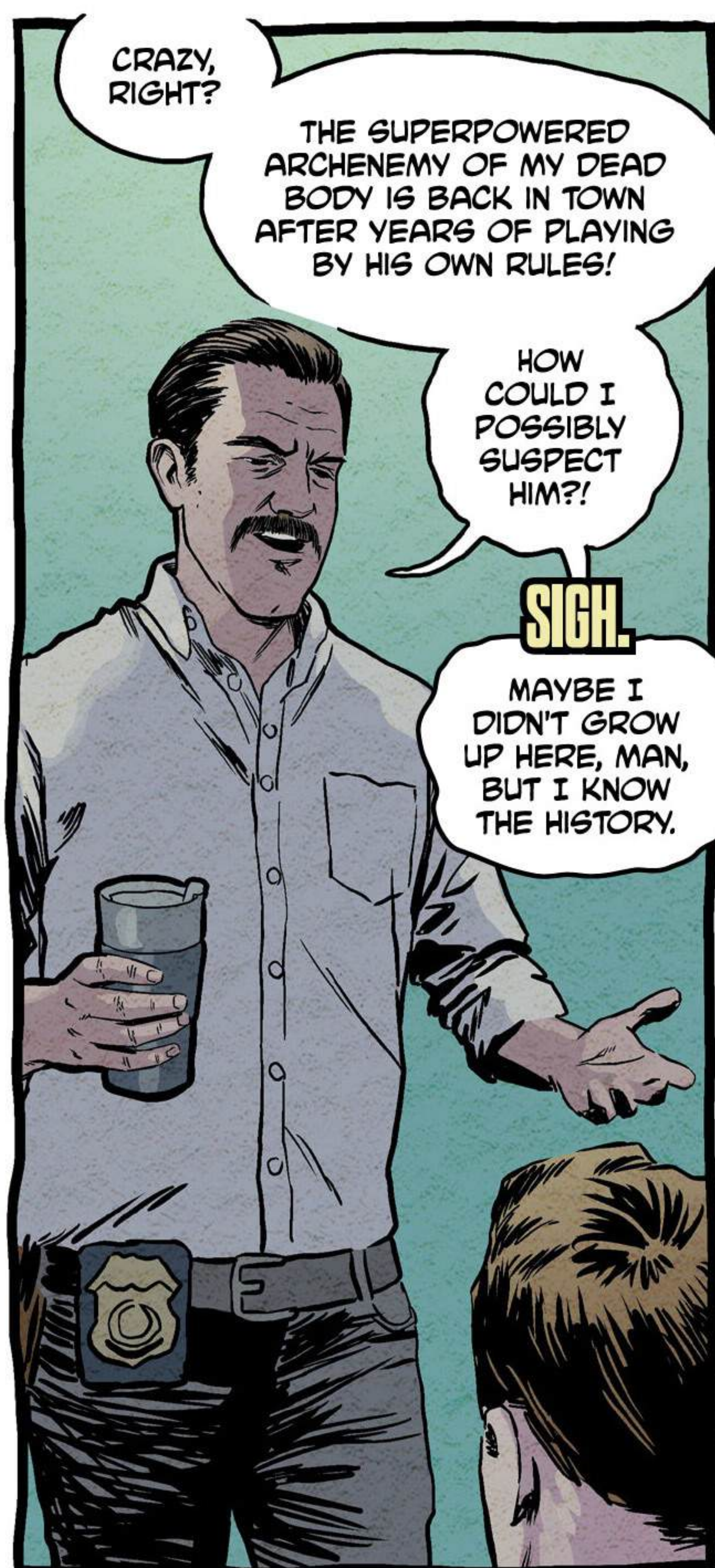
I MEAN,
ABOVE
AVERAGE?

WAIT!
WAIT, PUT
THIS ON!

MA'AM--









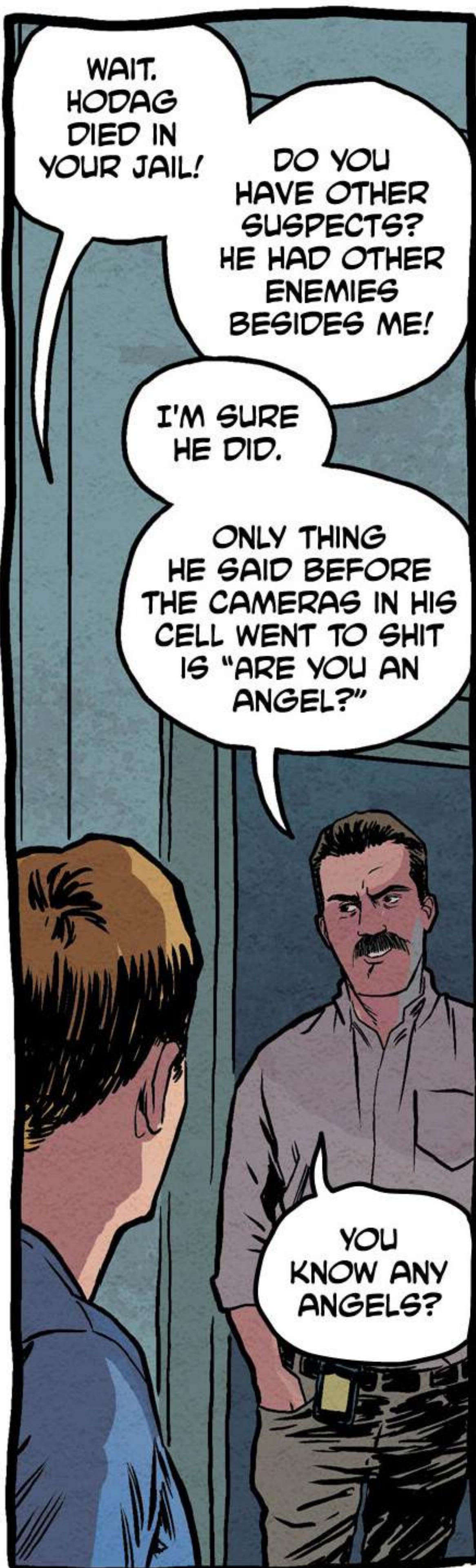
THAT'S IT?

INGA SAYS SHE WAS WITH YOU.

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

EVEN IF SHE WASN'T MY WIFE, SHE'S STILL ROYALTY IN THIS TOWN.

GO PUT SOME PANTS ON.



WAIT. HODAG DIED IN YOUR JAIL!

DO YOU HAVE OTHER SUSPECTS? HE HAD OTHER ENEMIES BESIDES ME!

I'M SURE HE DID.

ONLY THING HE SAID BEFORE THE CAMERAS IN HIS CELL WENT TO SHIT IS "ARE YOU AN ANGEL?"

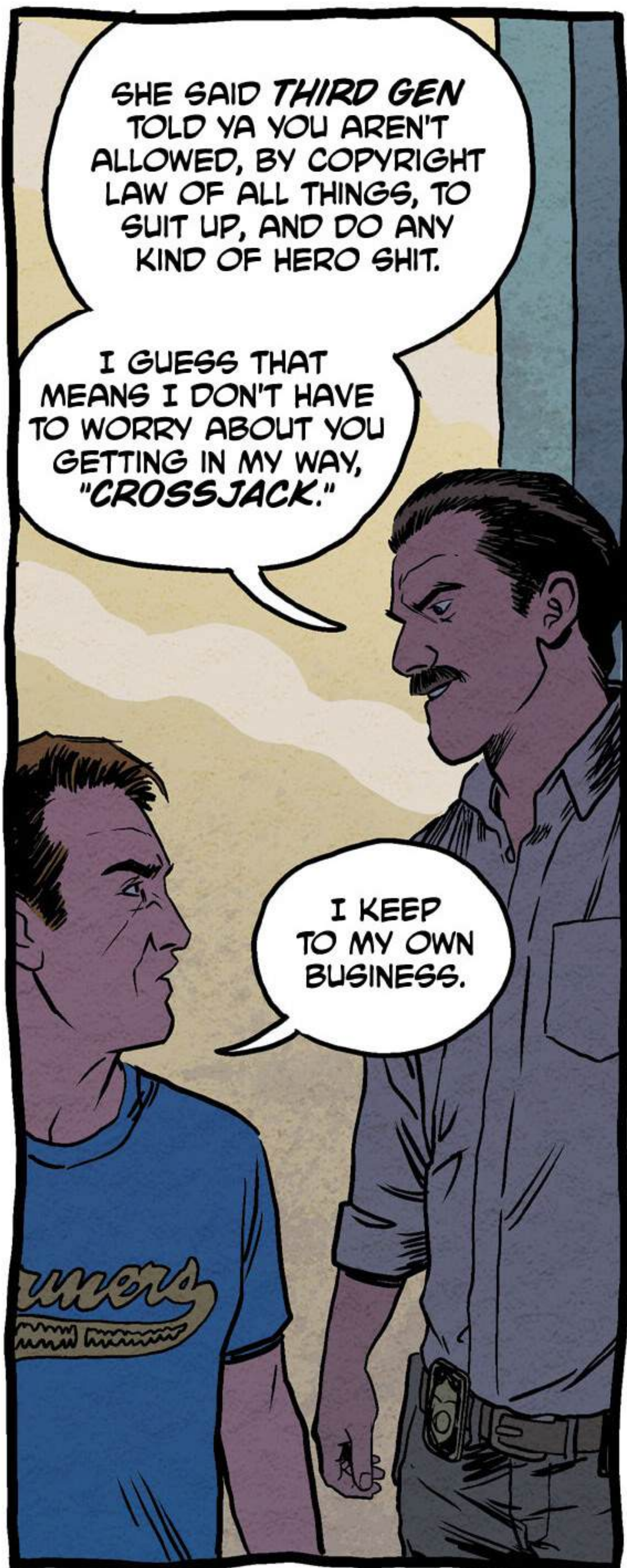
YOU KNOW ANY ANGELS?



LOOK, I GOT A DOG-MAULING AND A DISTURBANCE AT THE QUARRY TO DEAL WITH FIRST. **REAL PEOPLE** PROBLEMS.

WHICH REMINDS ME.

MY LOVELY WIFE MENTIONED **YOU** GOT SOME VISITORS LAST NIGHT.



SHE SAID **THIRD GEN** TOLD YA YOU AREN'T ALLOWED, BY COPYRIGHT LAW OF ALL THINGS, TO SUIT UP, AND DO ANY KIND OF HERO SHIT.

I GUESS THAT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU GETTING IN MY WAY, "**CROSSJACK**."

I KEEP TO MY OWN BUSINESS.

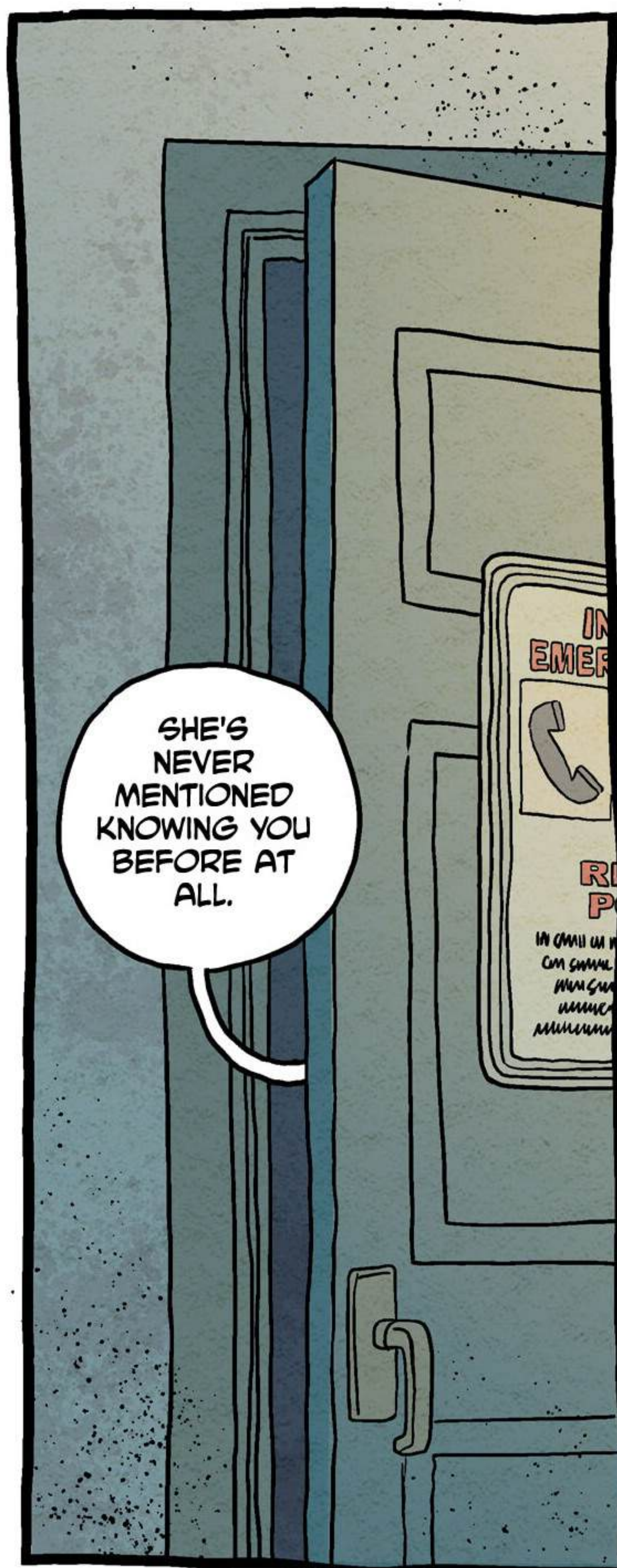


WAIT...

INGA DIDN'T MENTION US HAVING COFFEE LAST NIGHT BEFORE THIS?

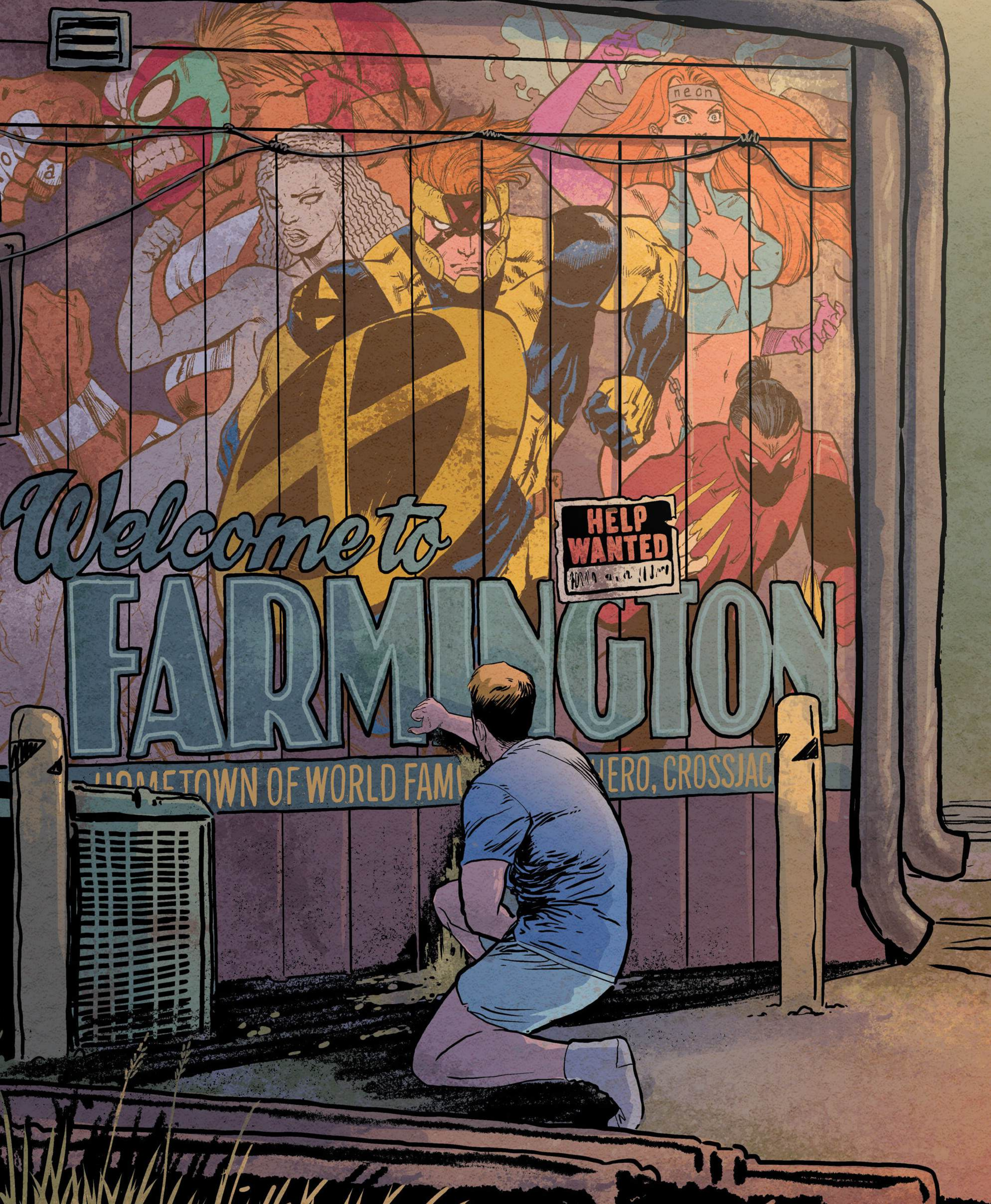
FUNNY.

Y'KNOW WHAT'S FUNNIER?



SHE'S NEVER MENTIONED KNOWING YOU BEFORE AT ALL.



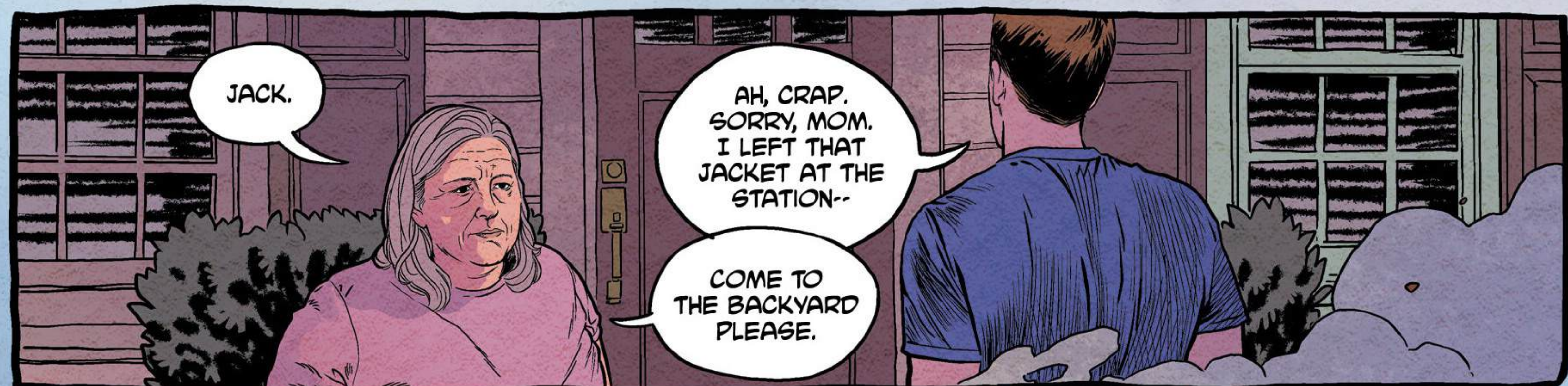
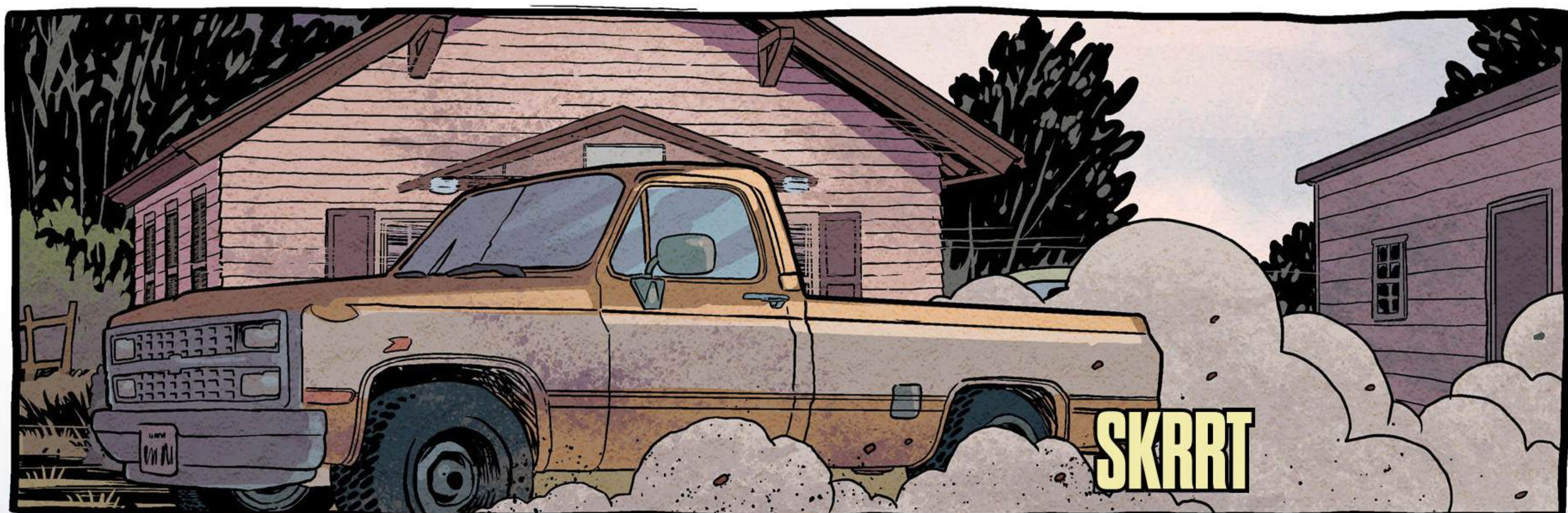
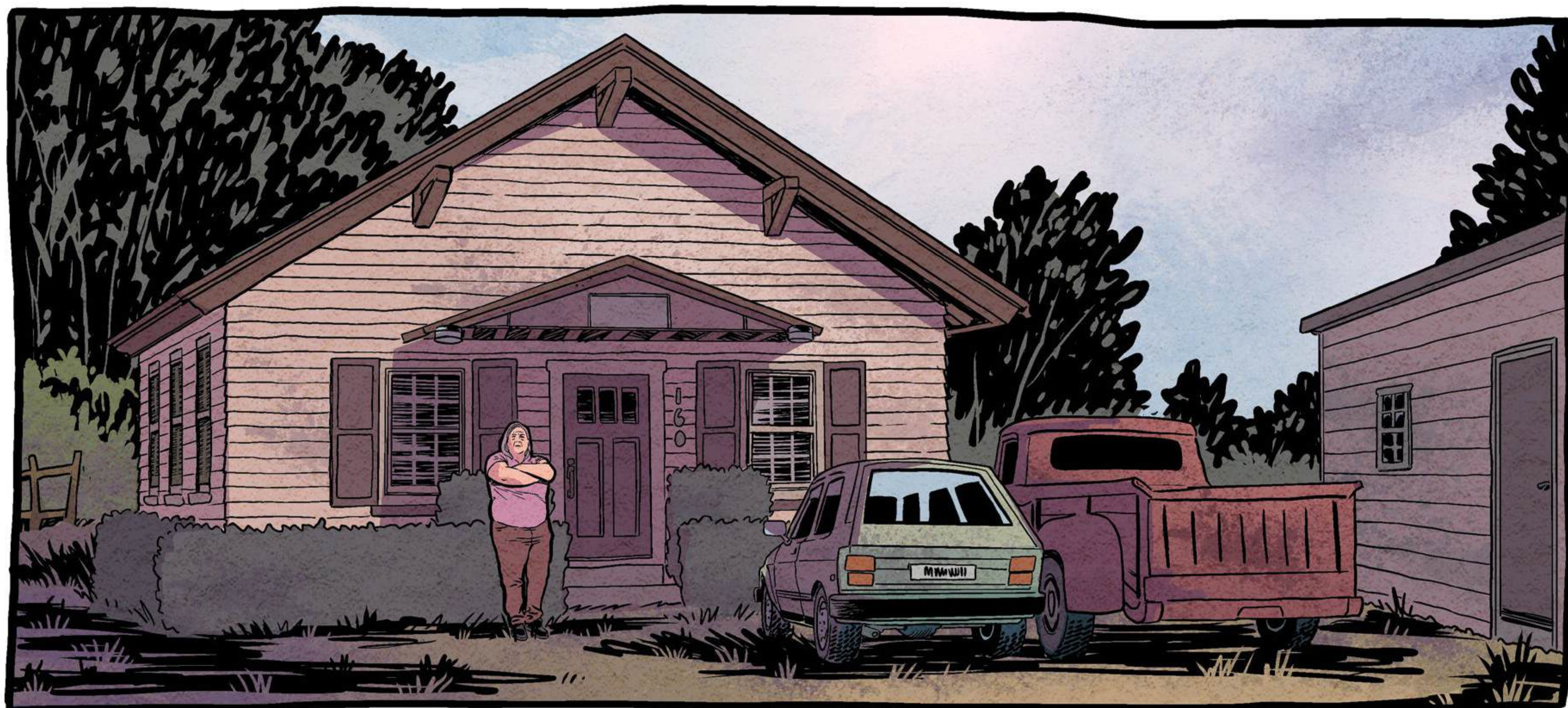


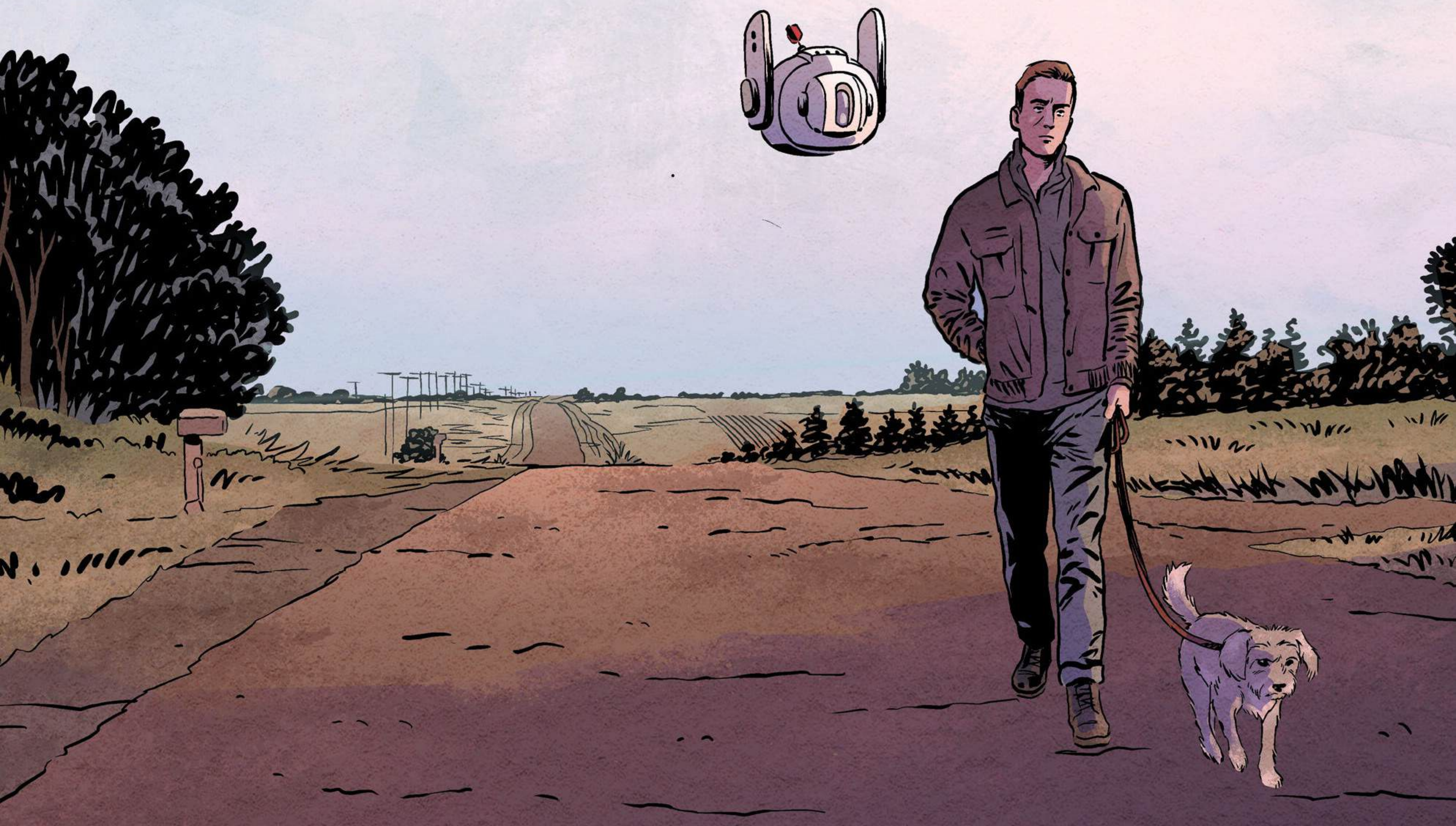
HMF.

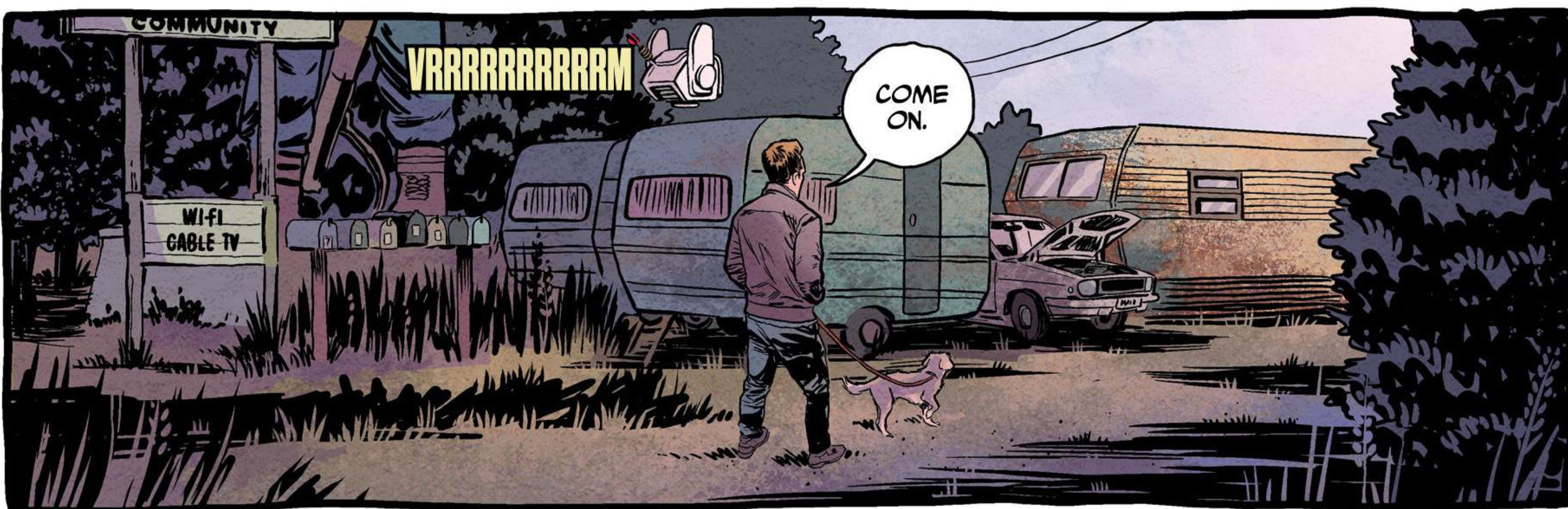
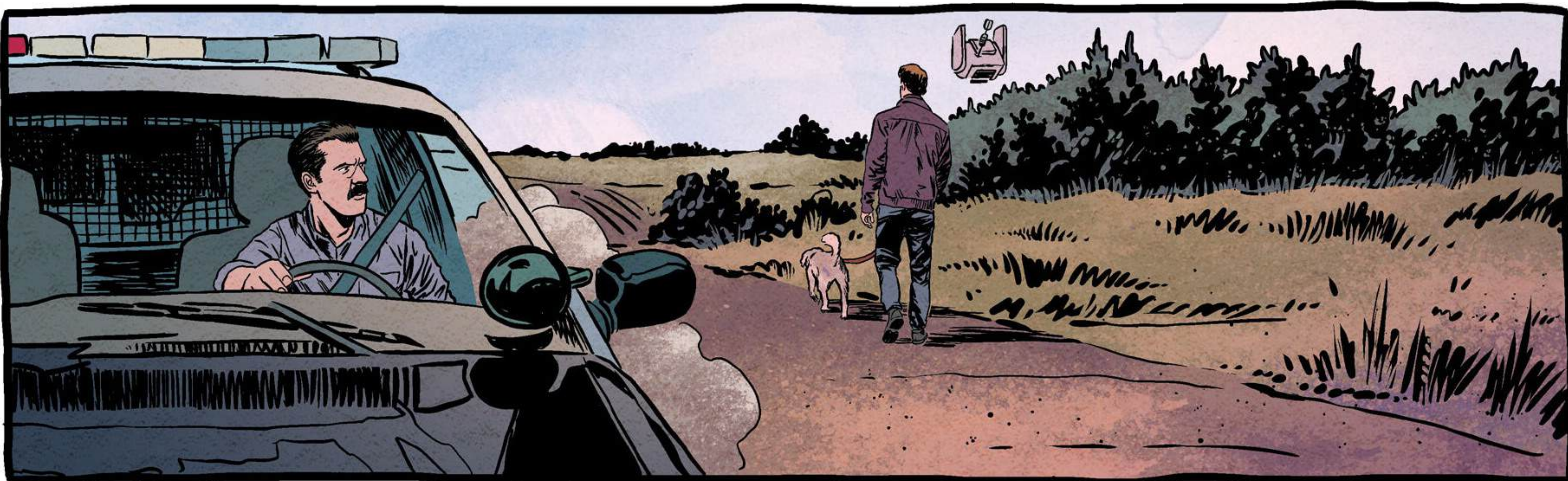
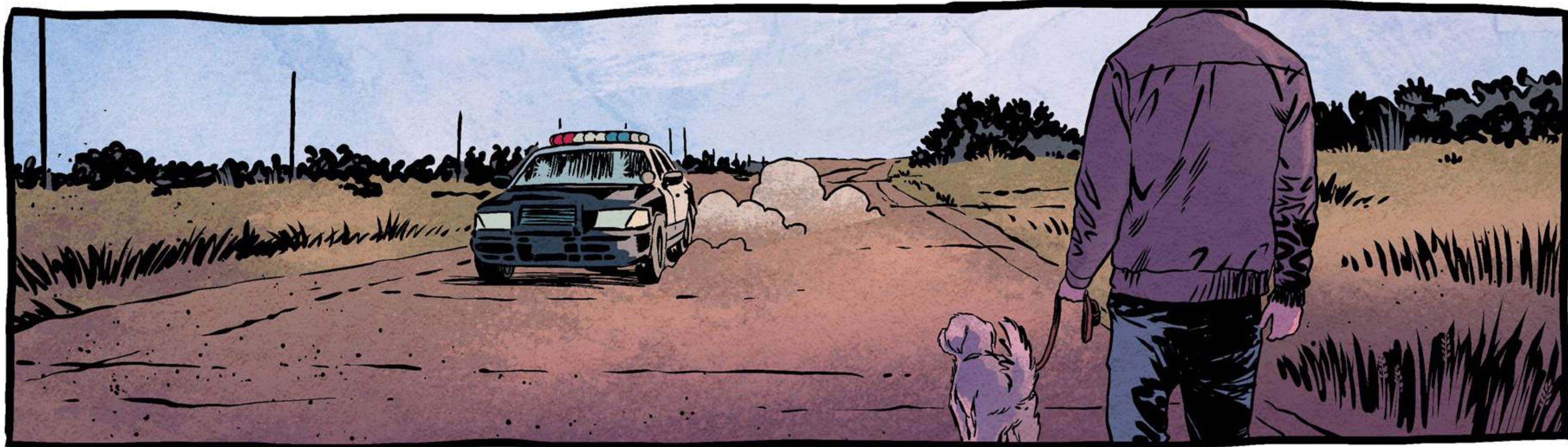
HELP
WANTED

Welcome to
FARMINGTON

HOMETOWN OF WORLD FAM... HERO, CROSSJAC









MS. OLSON?
I SAW THAT COP
WAS HERE.

I'M SORRY
ABOUT
HODAG...



I'M SORRY
ABOUT
YOUR SON,
BERENICE.



OH.
LITTLE
JACK
XAVIER.

NOT
SO LITTLE
ANYMORE
N'SO?

SNF.

COME
ON IN.

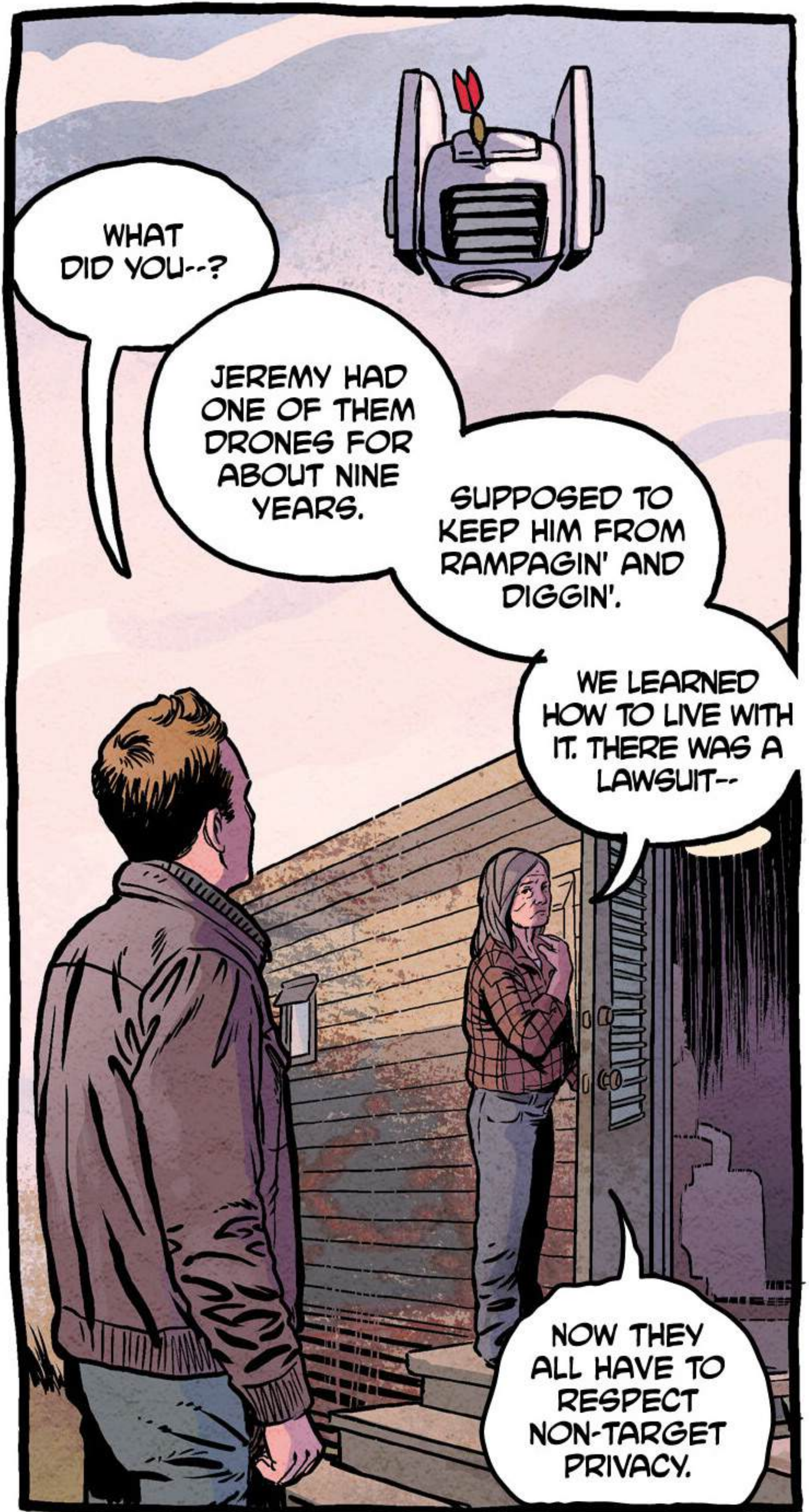
OH, I
REALLY
CAN'T.
I HAVE
THIS...



GENCOP
N-FORCE.

ACCOMMODATION
CODE 98731. STAY.

AFFIRMATIVE.
STAYING.



WHAT
DID YOU--?

JEREMY HAD
ONE OF THEM
DRONES FOR
ABOUT NINE
YEARS.

SUPPOSED TO
KEEP HIM FROM
RAMPAGIN' AND
DIGGIN'.

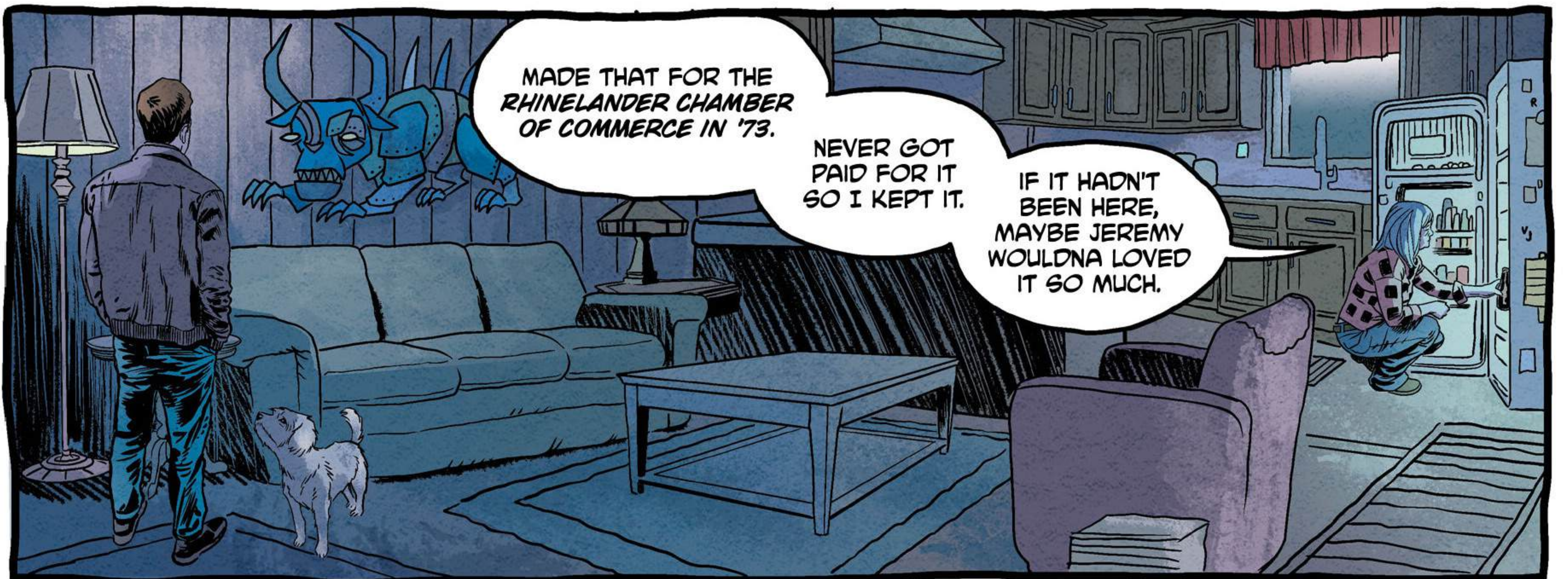
WE LEARNED
HOW TO LIVE WITH
IT. THERE WAS A
LAWSUIT--

NOW THEY
ALL HAVE TO
RESPECT
NON-TARGET
PRIVACY.



BEEDEEP BEEDEEP

TOLD IT
I WAS GONNA
BE CHANGIN'
CLOTHES.



MADE THAT FOR THE
RHINELANDER CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN '73.

NEVER GOT
PAID FOR IT
SO I KEPT IT.

IF IT HADN'T
BEEN HERE,
MAYBE JEREMY
WOULDA LOVED
IT SO MUCH.



MAYBE HE'D A'
NEVER NAMED
HIMSELF AFTER
THAT MONSTER.

HERE. THAT'S
HOMEMADE
ROOT BEER.

MS. OLSON.
I'VE BEEN
AWAY.

I THOUGHT JEREMY
HAD STOPPED THE
SUPERVILLAIN THING
AFTER, YOU KNOW....



AFTER HE
GOT HIS BRAIN
PUNCHED IN?

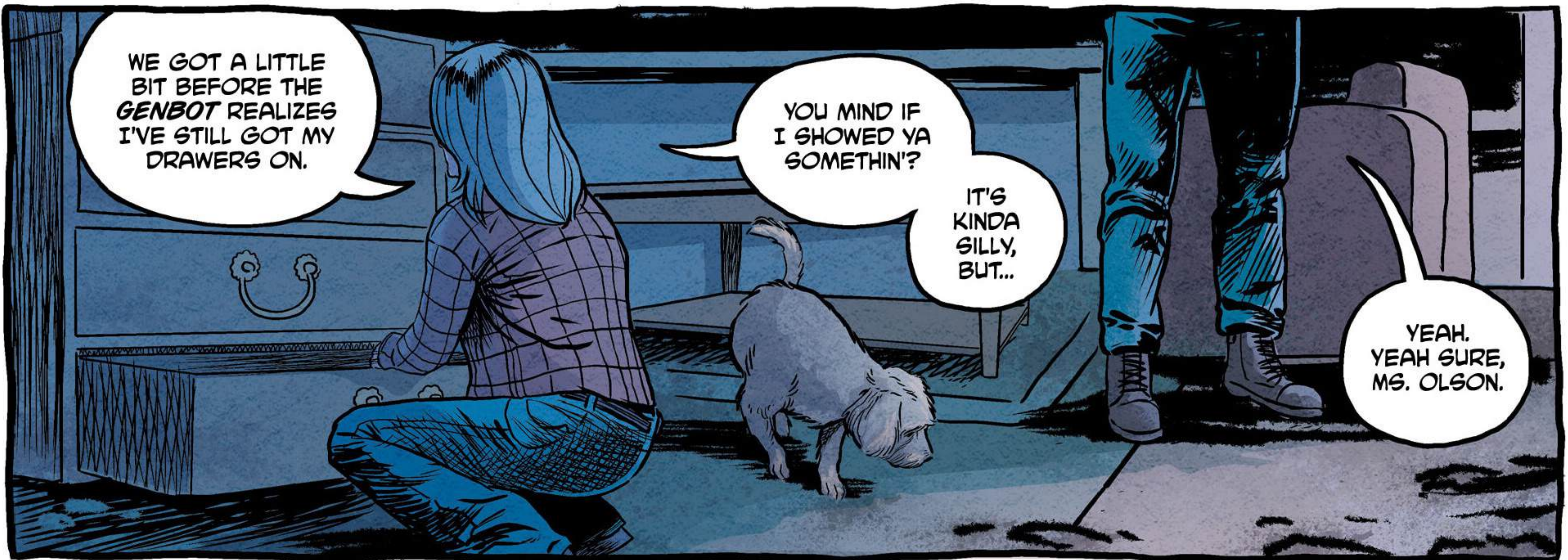
YEAH.
HE DID.

DESPITE IT ALL...
DESPITE THE CONSTANT
PAIN, THE UNEMPLOYMENT...
DESPITE THAT GODDAMN
BLUE SUIT STUCK TO
HIS SKIN...

HE DID.



AND
THEN HE
DIDN'T.



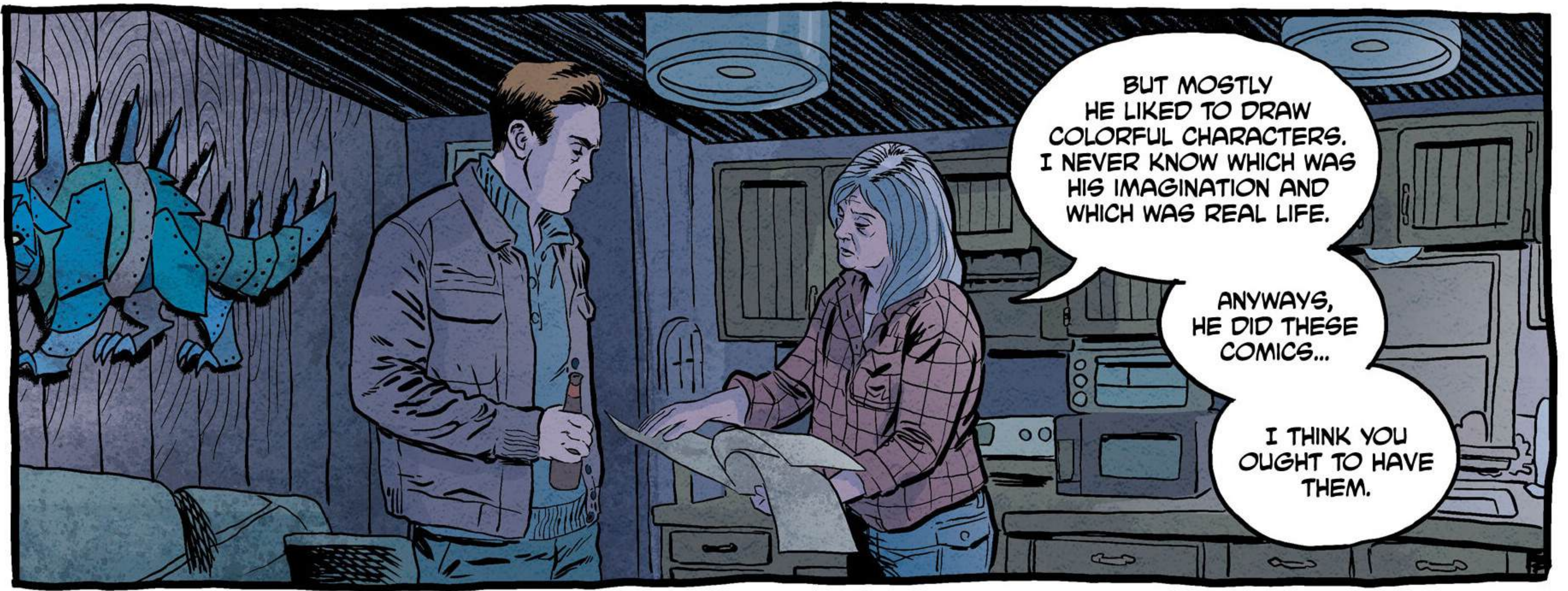


AFTER THE
ATTACK, HE HAD
TROUBLE SPEAKIN'
SOMETIMES.

SOME DAYS
WORSE THAN
OTHERS. ON THEM
DAYS, HE'D JUST SIT
AND DRAW WHILE I
WORKED.

ALL KINDS OF
STUFF, Y'KNOW.
HE COULD COPY
MOST ANYTHING
HE SAW.

KIND OF A
SAVANT THAT
WAY.



BUT MOSTLY
HE LIKED TO DRAW
COLORFUL CHARACTERS.
I NEVER KNOW WHICH WAS
HIS IMAGINATION AND
WHICH WAS REAL LIFE.

ANYWAYS,
HE DID THESE
COMICS...

I THINK YOU
OUGHT TO HAVE
THEM.



CHILDISH,
I KNOW.

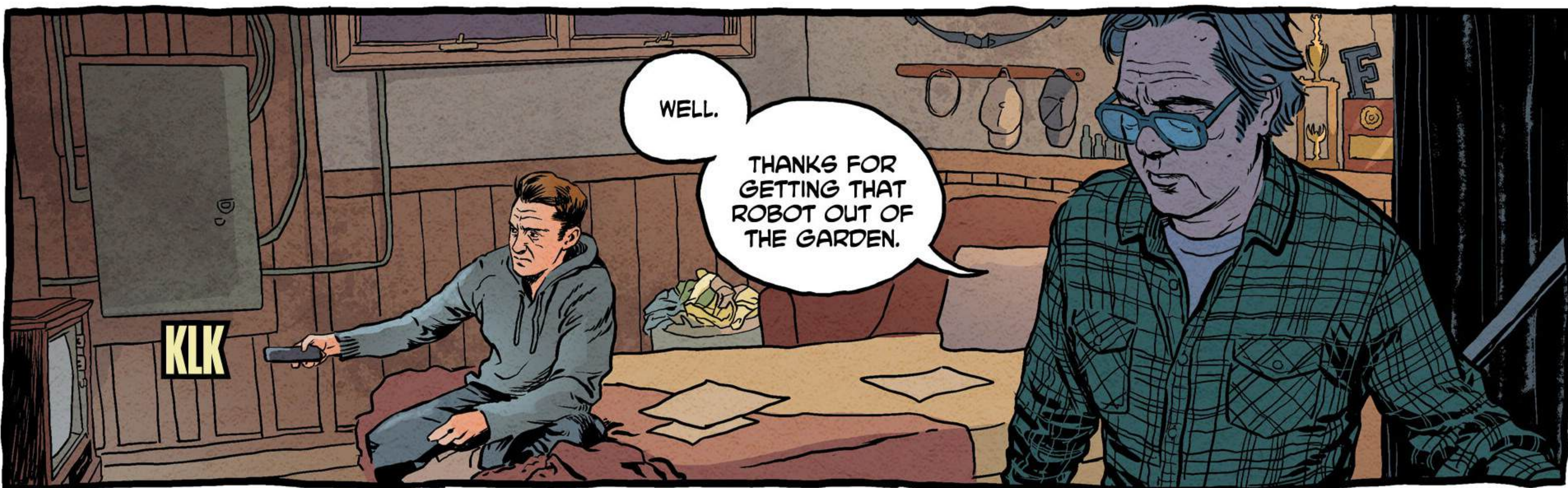
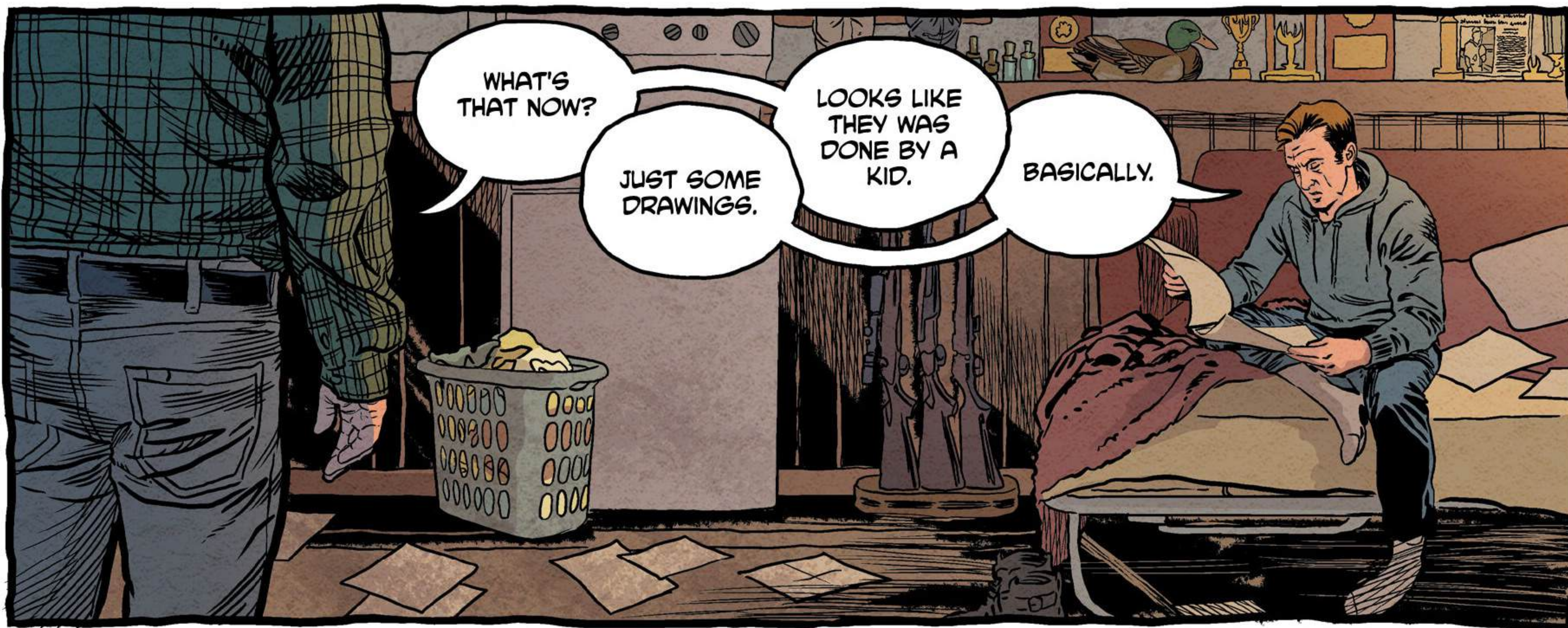
SUPERHERO
STUFF...



WOW.
THANKS.

JACK.
ONE MORE
THING...

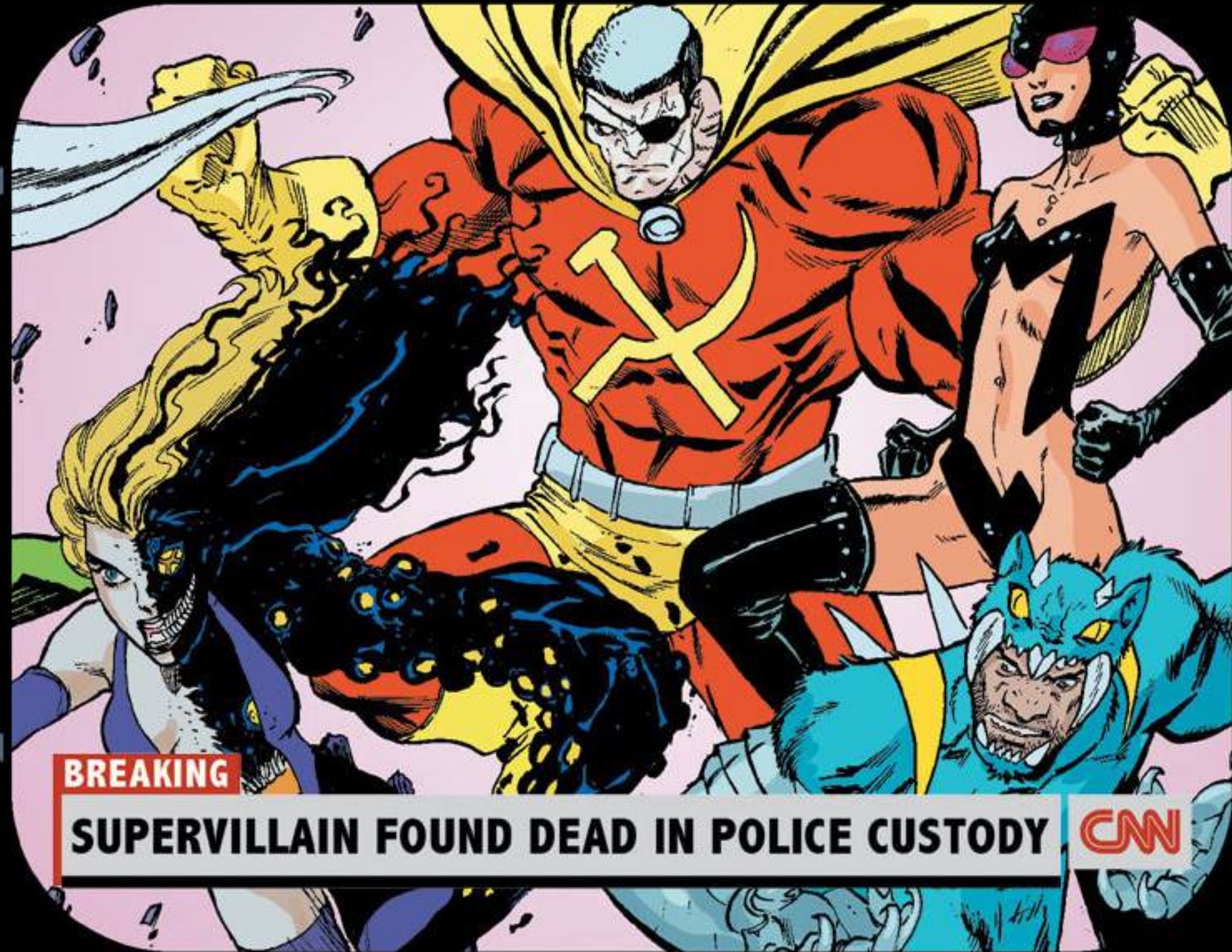




...MINOR SUPERVILLAIN WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CELL THIS MORNING, AND AUTHORITIES ARE CALLING THE CAUSE OF DEATH SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH NO OTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.



OLSON FIRST CAME TO PROMINENCE IN A SERIES OF VANDALISM-RELATED CRIMES ACROSS SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN BEFORE JOINING THE *MEGA-MERCENARY* GROUP CALLED *THE DESOLATORS*....



...SWINGING FROM THE CELL CEILING, EH? REMIND YOU OF SOMEBODY ELSE? CUZ I'M THINKING THIS IS ANOTHER CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT TAKING OUT THE TRASH. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

GOOD.

THIS GUY HODAG WAS SCUM. A TERRORIST. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WHOEVER ACED HIM AND THE OTHERS IS DOING YOU A FAVOR BY SAVING YOUR TAX DOLLARS.

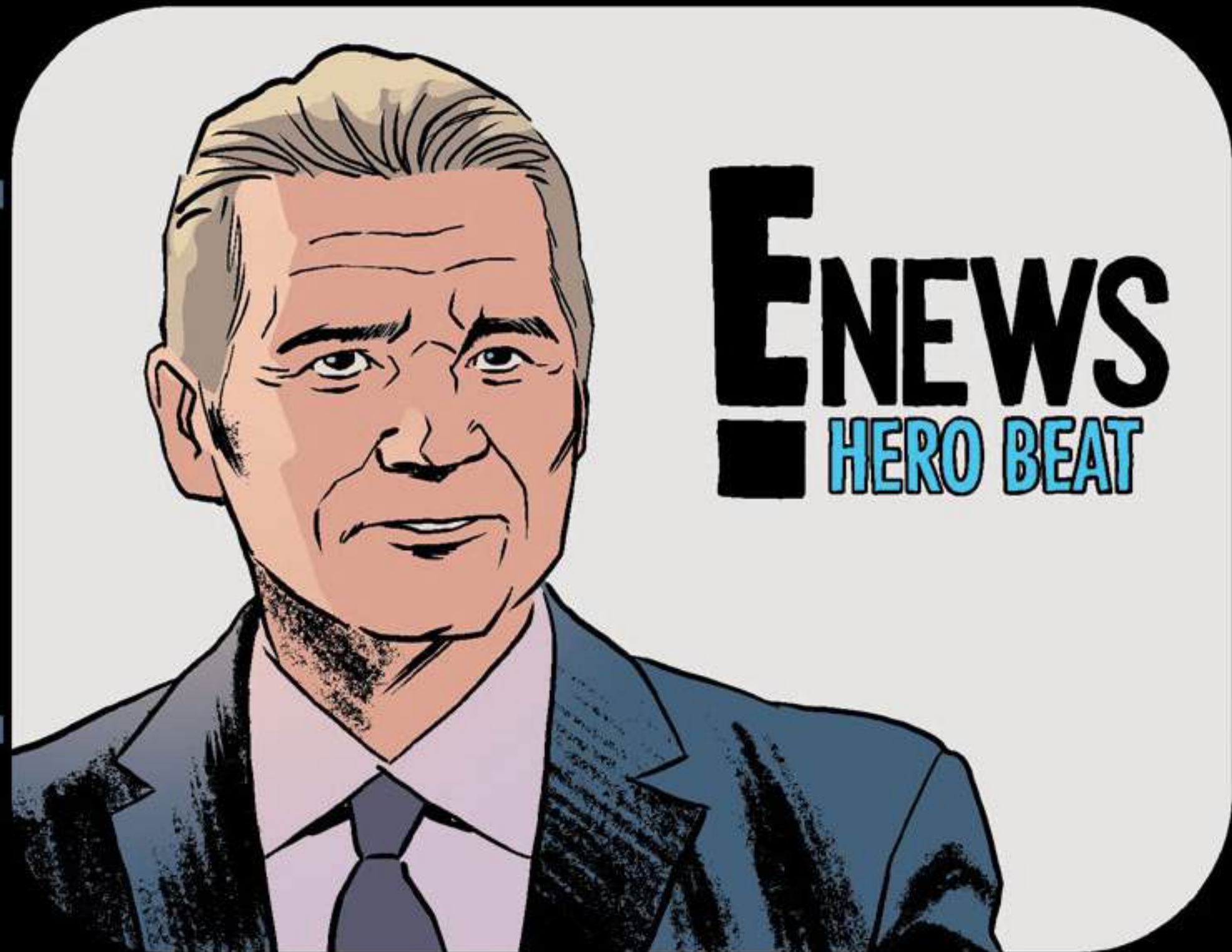
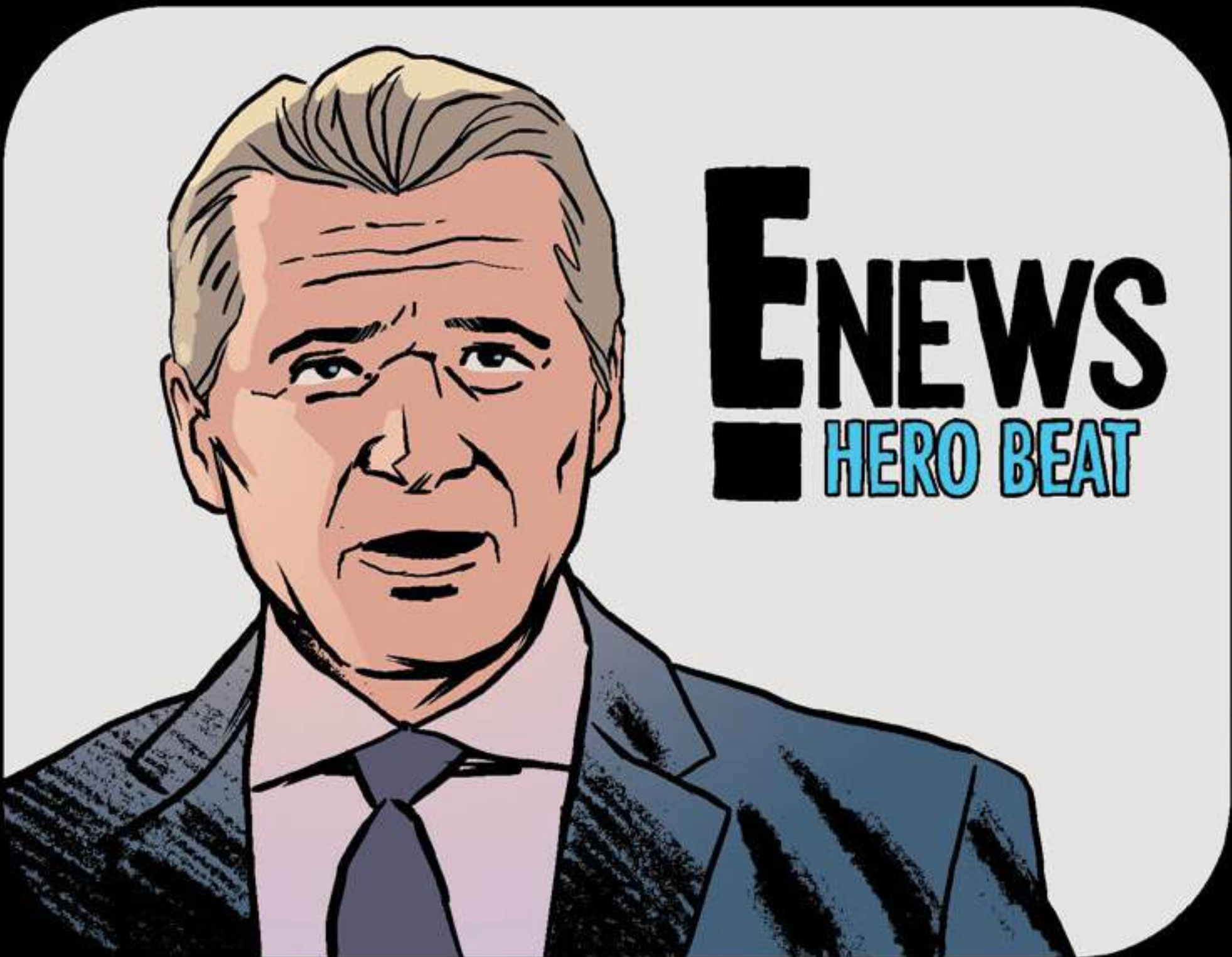
CELL BLOCK HANGMAN FOR PRESIDENT!



...THE REAL STORY HERE IS THAT SOURCES ON THE INSIDE REVEALED JACK XAVER, AKA CROSSJACK, WAS CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN?



RUMOR HAS IT THERE'S A SCARLET LETTER ON THE SCANDALOUS MR. JACK'S FORE-HEAD NOW. SO SCARLET HE GOT KICKED FROM THE HALLOWED HALLS OF THIRD GEN HQ BACK TO A DINGY ONE-STOPLIGHT TOWN IN FLYOVER COUNTRY.





APHEK.



THERE.

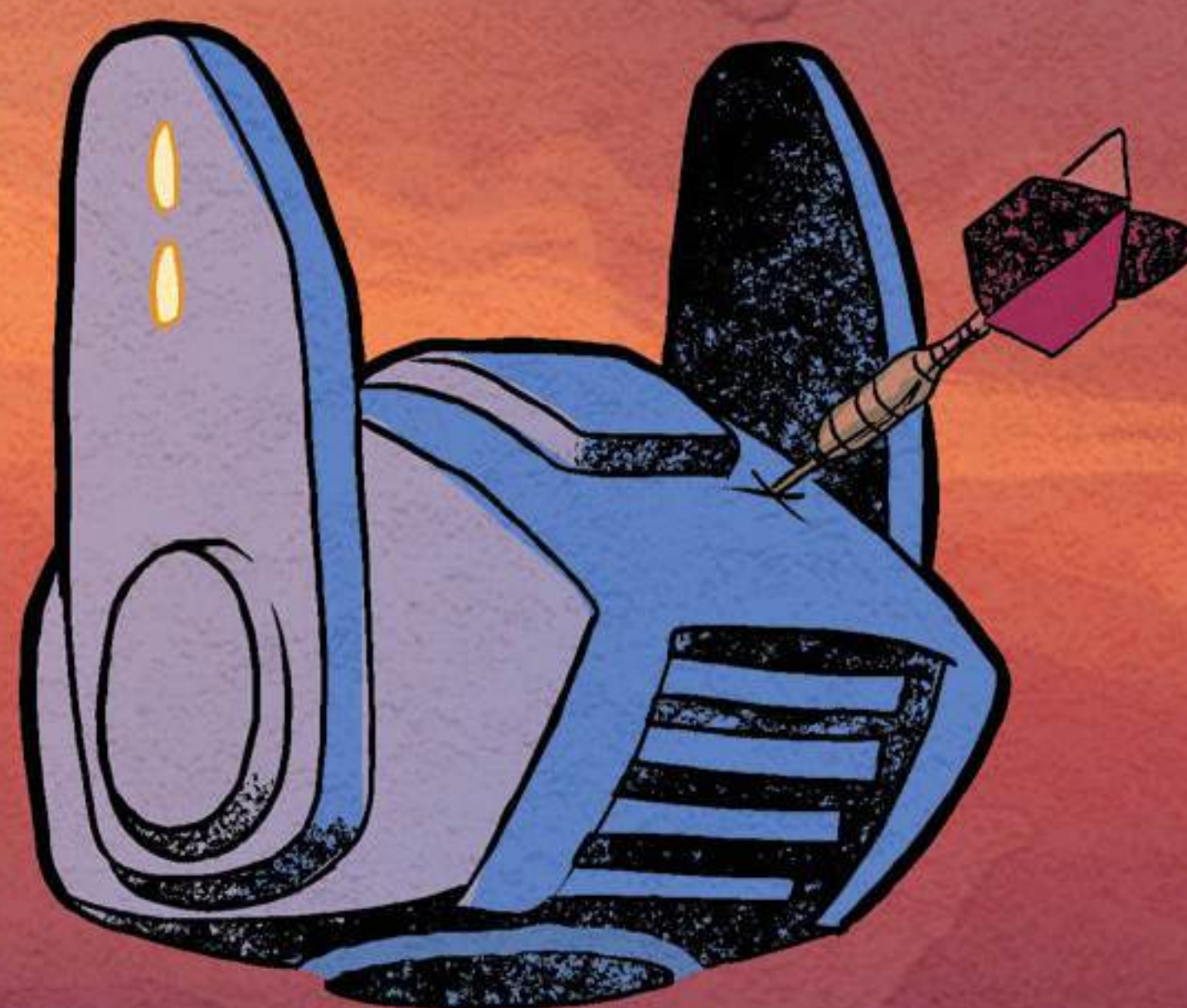
THAT'S IT.
THE APHEK
ENGINE!





CROSSJACK:

**YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF CODE
1297 OF THE FIRST GEN CHARTER.**



**YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM
ANY SORT OF CRIMEFIGHTING,**

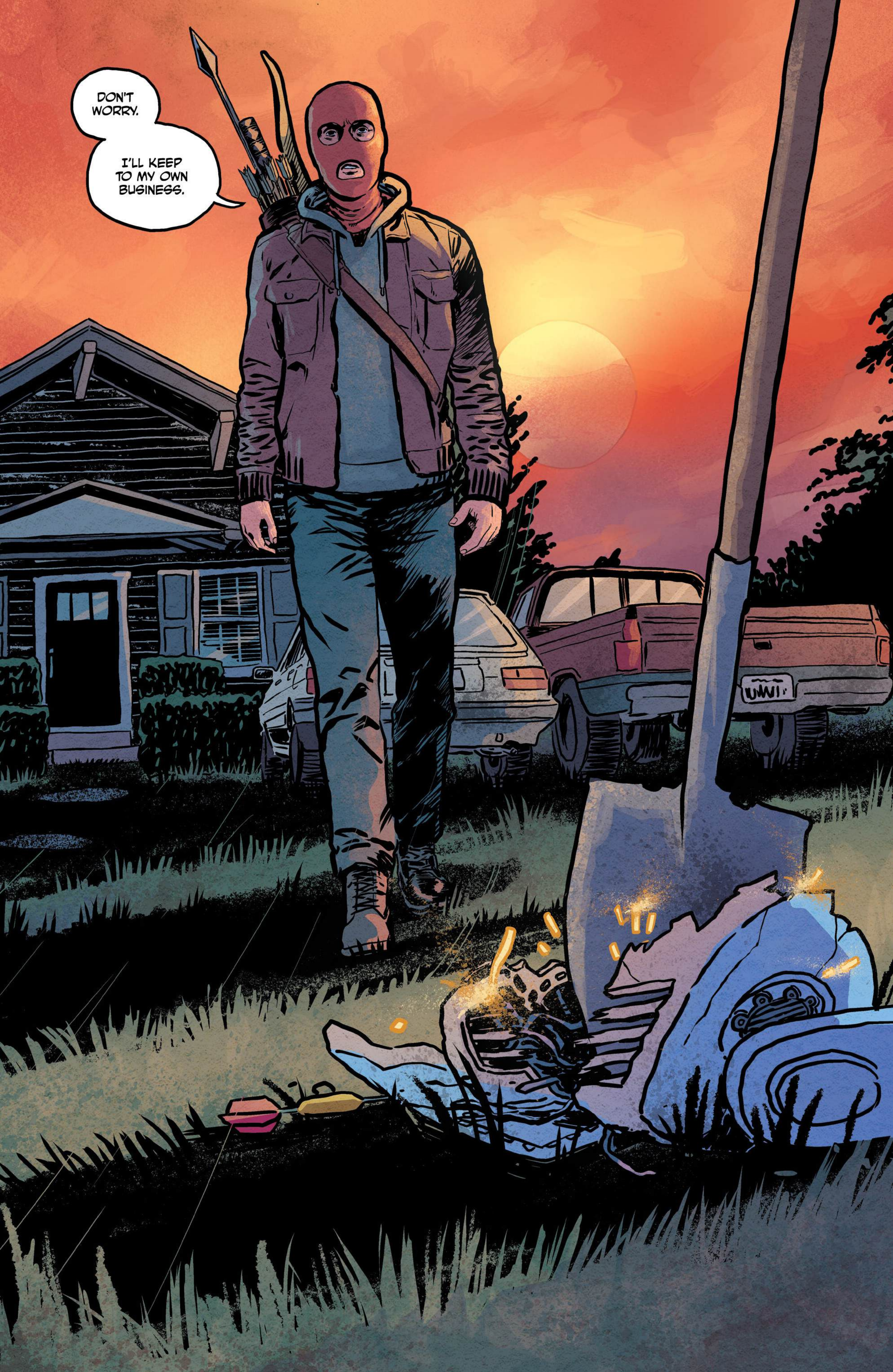
INVESTIGATnkz--

THUNK

ACCOMMODATION
CODE 98731.

STAY.

KZZREASSZZKKKI



DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL KEEP
TO MY OWN
BUSINESS.

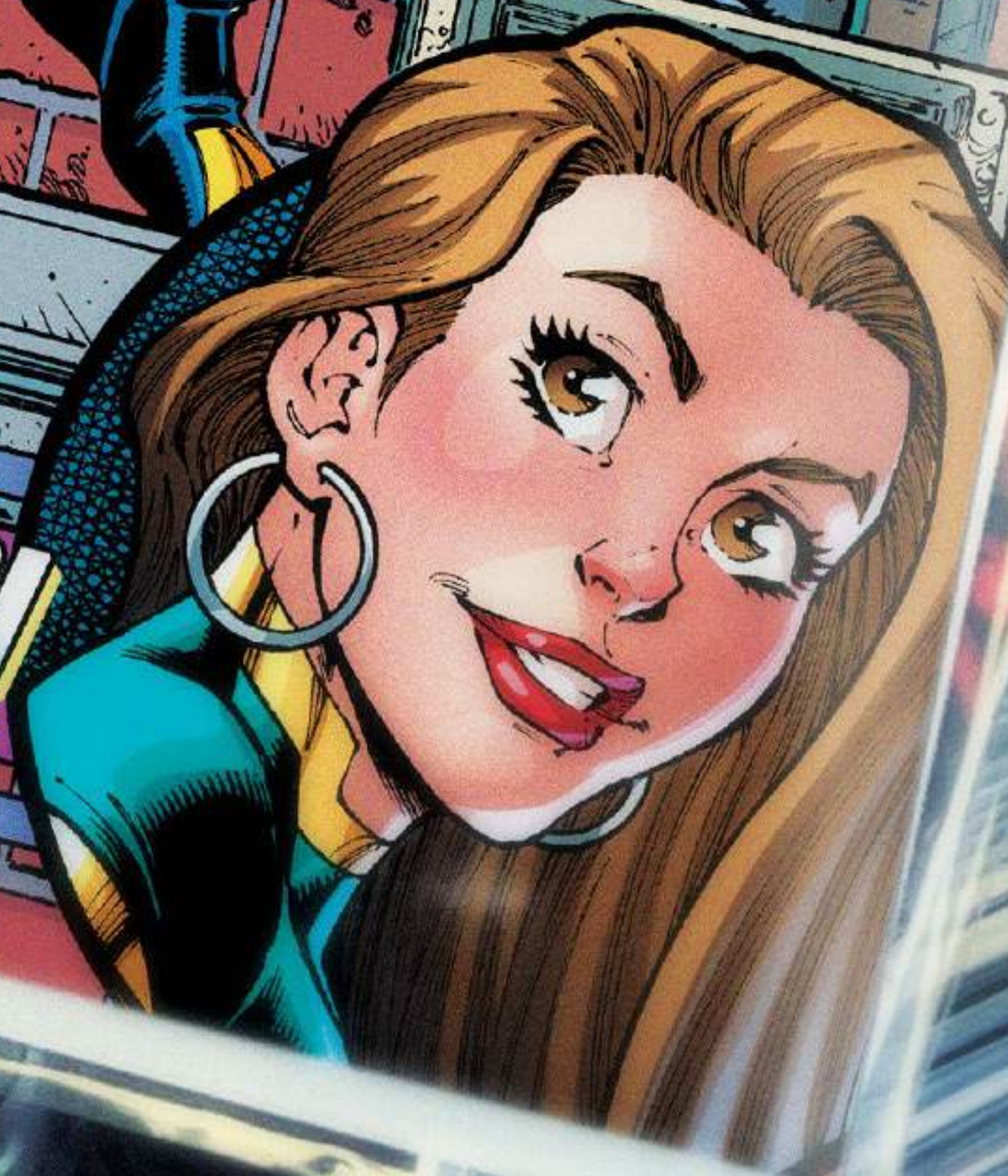
image
2 \$3.95
MARCH

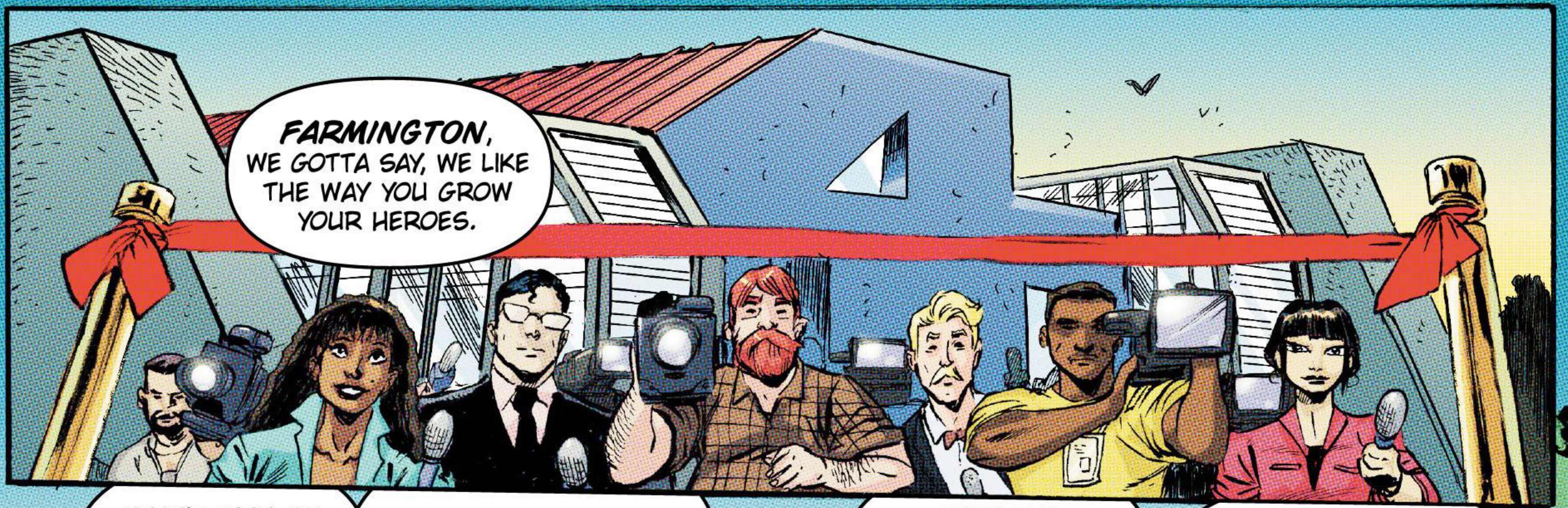
CROSSJACK AND COMPANY



CRACKING
SPINES WITH
SHADOWHAWK

PLUS! FROM THE
PAGES OF
NEWMEN... It's **BOOTLEG!**





FARMINGTON,
WE GOTTA SAY, WE LIKE
THE WAY YOU GROW
YOUR HEROES.

THAT'S WHY, AS
PART OF DRAFTING
CROSSJACK TO
THIRD GEN...

WE'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE
GROUNDBREAKING ON
THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART
4TH GEN TRAINING
FACILITY!

WITH THE
COOPERATION OF
THE GREAT STATE
OF WISCONSIN...

WE'RE BRINGING THE
FUTURE TO YOUR TOWN,
AND JACK XAVER TO
"HERO SCHOOL."



HOMETOWN HERO!

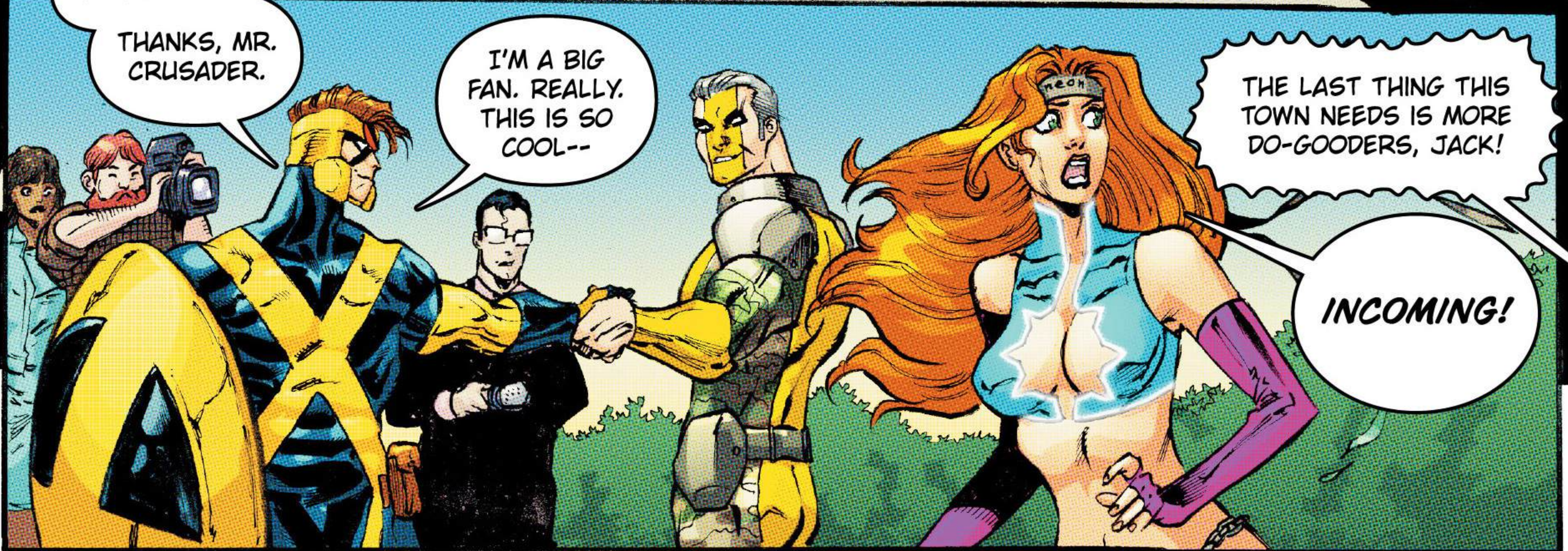
WOW.

THANKS, MR.
CRUSADER.

I'M A BIG
FAN. REALLY.
THIS IS SO
COOL--

THE LAST THING THIS
TOWN NEEDS IS MORE
DO-GOODERS, JACK!

INCOMING!





YOU'RE
BREAKING
GROUND?

HODAG'S
GONNA BREAK
NEON'S PRETTY
FACE!

NEON!

PUT DOWN A
GLOW-GAS
FIELD AND--

NO,
I GOT IT.

GOOD!
IT'S YOU I
WANTED,
'JACK!

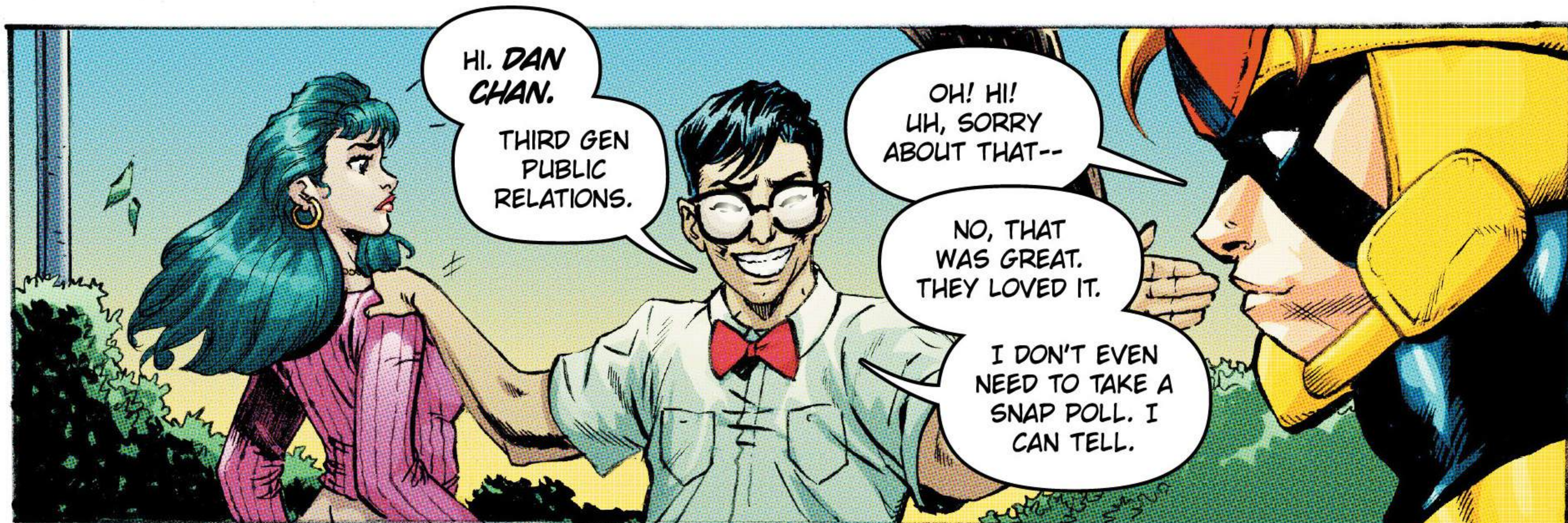
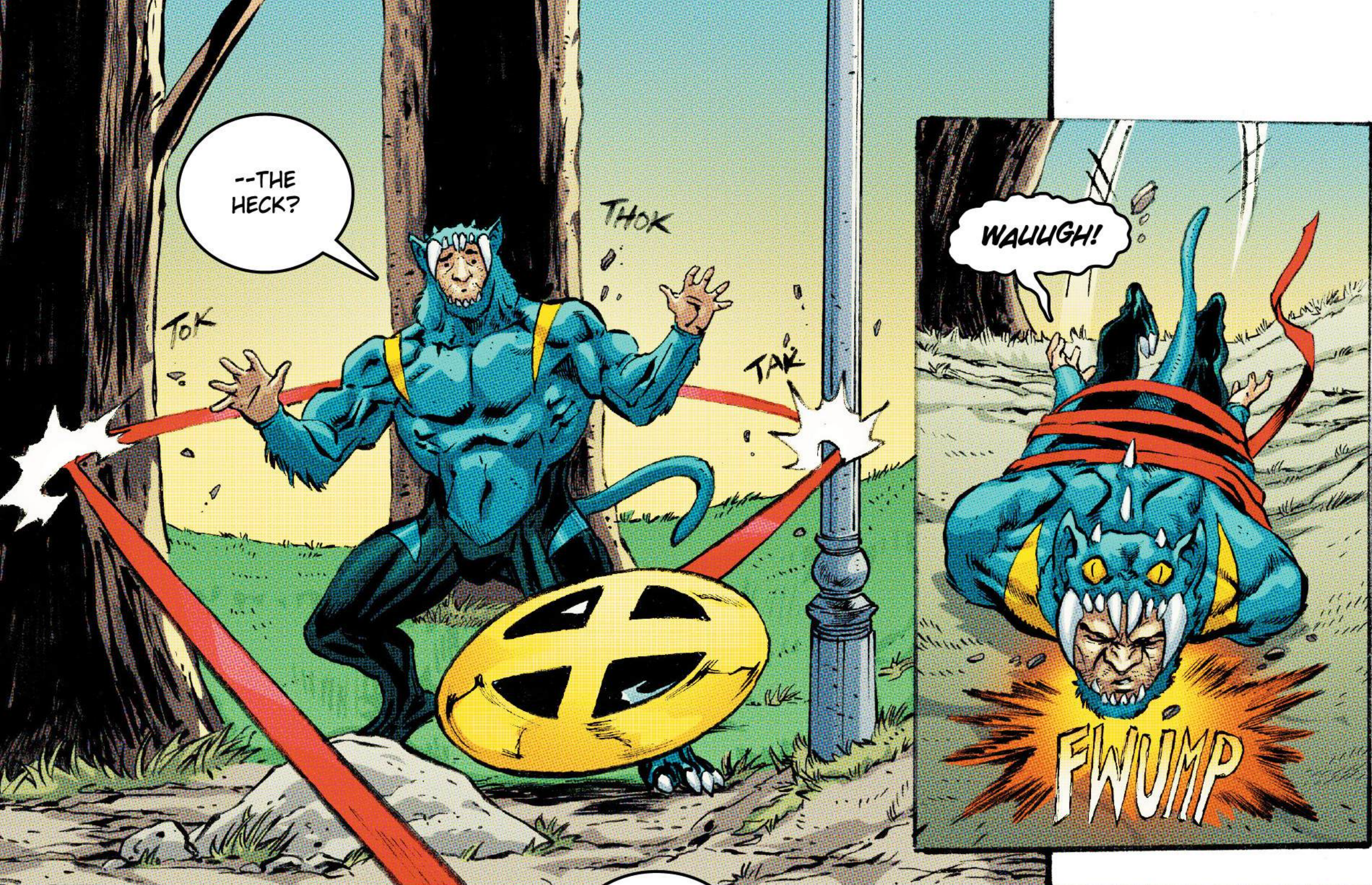
AW,
'DAG.

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER,
I'D SAY YOU
WERE FLIRTIN'!

WHICH,
WHILE I
APPRECIATE
IT--

I'M A
ONE-WOMAN
TYPE A' GUY...

WHICH
MEANS I
DON'T GET
AROUND!



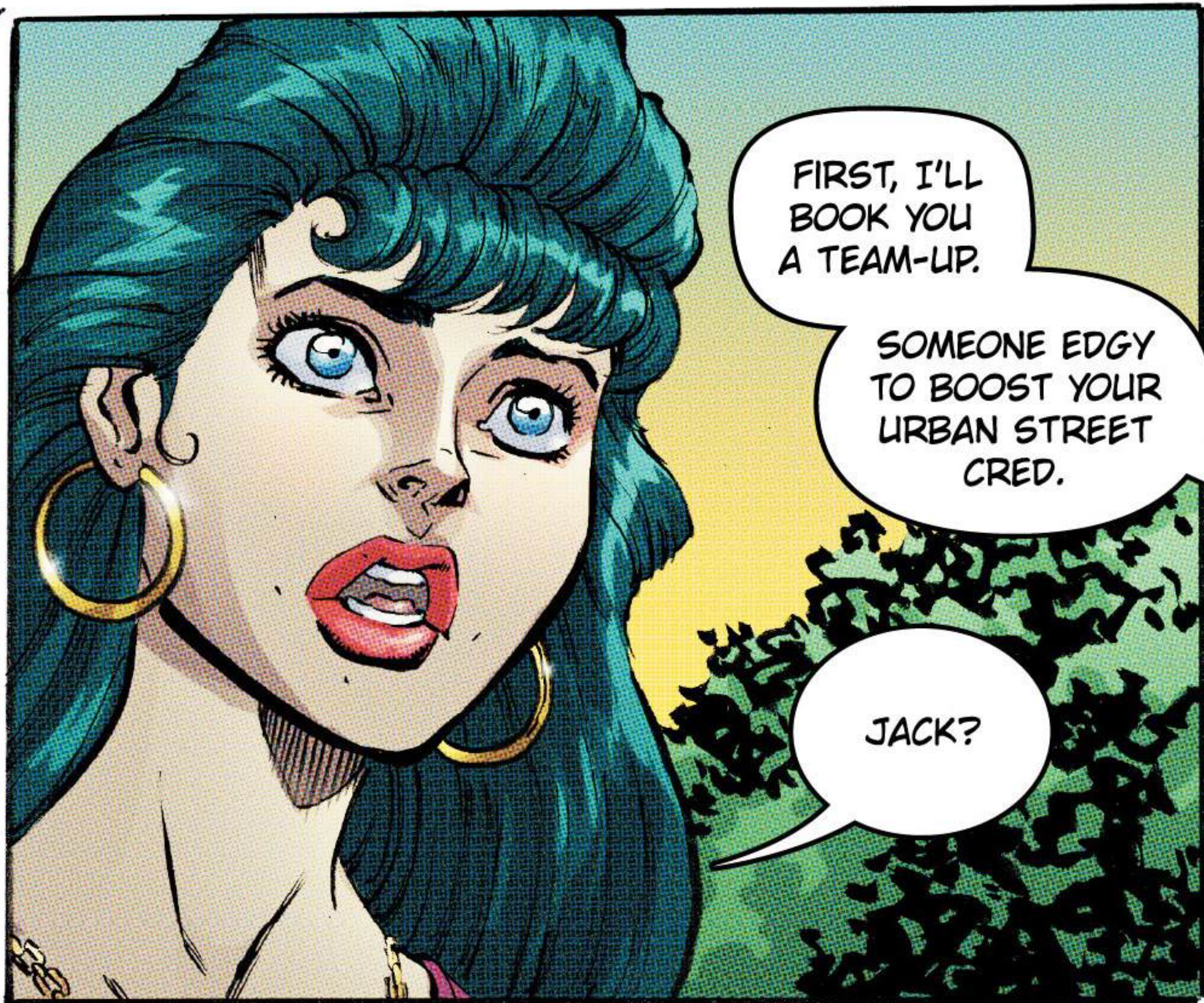


SO, HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING, WE GO RIGHT TO THE NATIONAL EXPOSURE.

BIG FIGHTS. BIG ACTION.

I MEAN, HE LOOKS SO GOOD DOING IT, RIGHT?

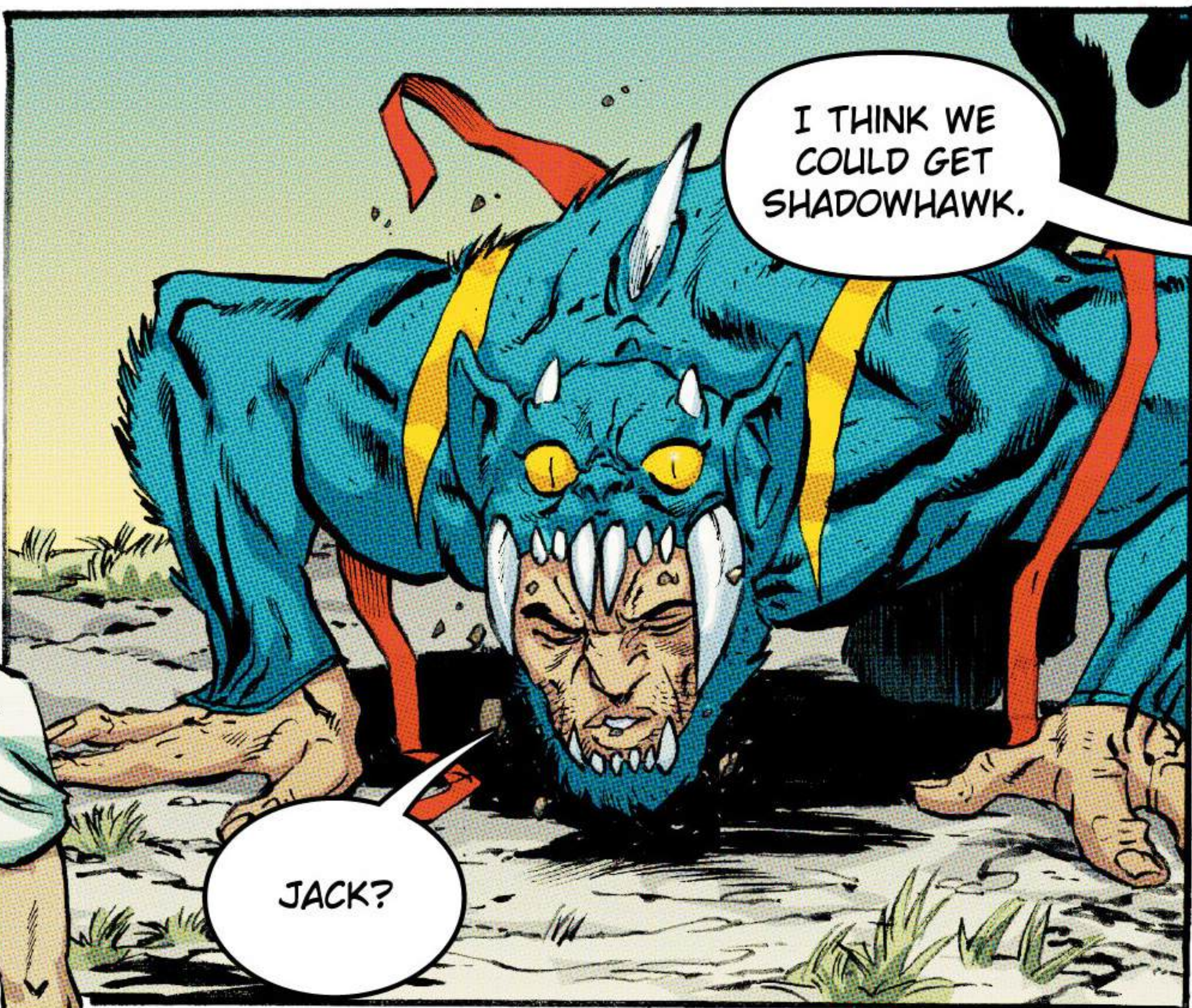
WHY NOT DO IT 'WIDESCREEN'?



FIRST, I'LL BOOK YOU A TEAM-UP.

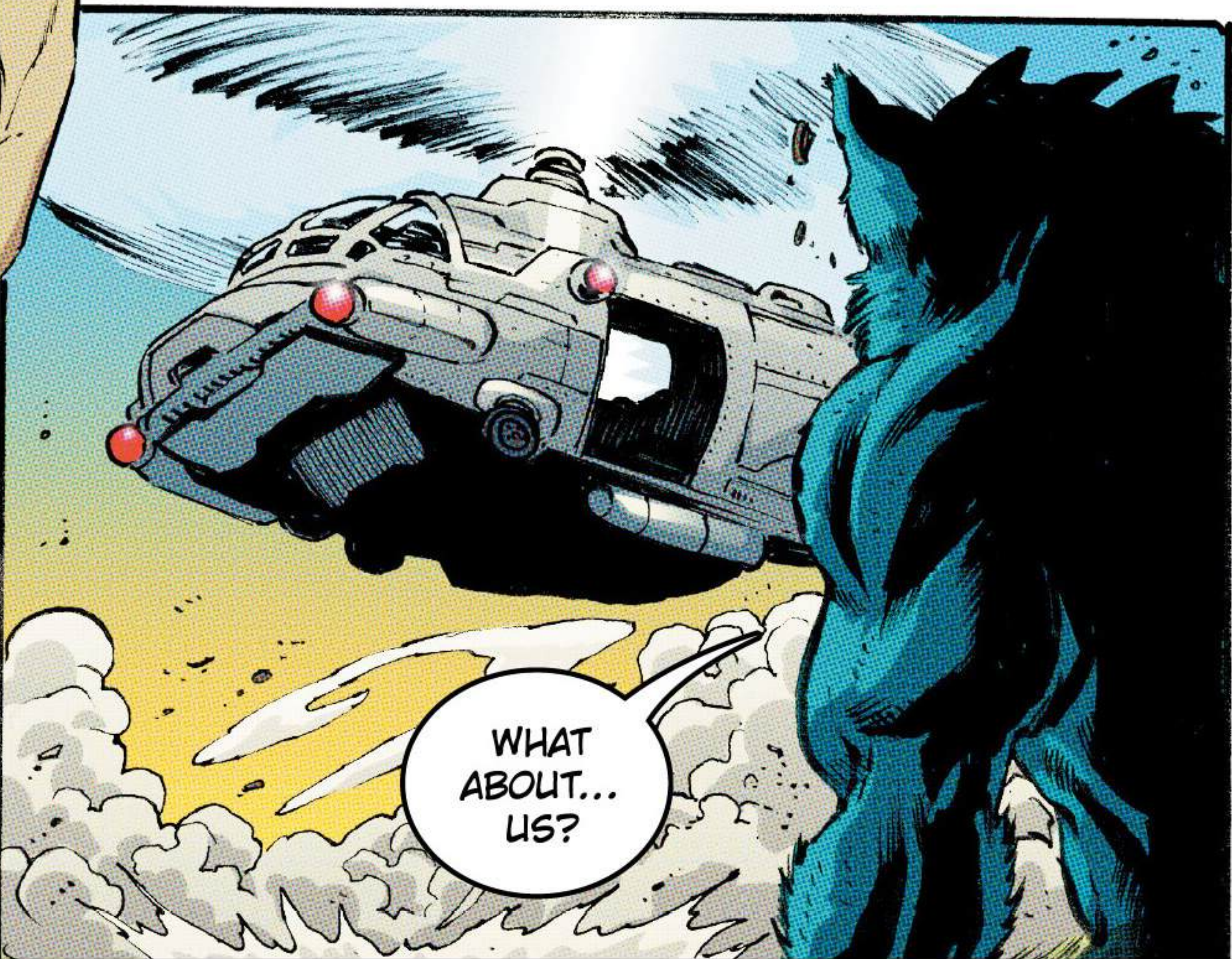
SOMEONE EDGY TO BOOST YOUR URBAN STREET CRED.

JACK?



I THINK WE COULD GET SHADOWHAWK.

JACK?



WHAT ABOUT... US?

NEXT
ISSUE

FALLEN HEAVENS

PART 11 OF
A 16-PART
MEGA-EVENT!

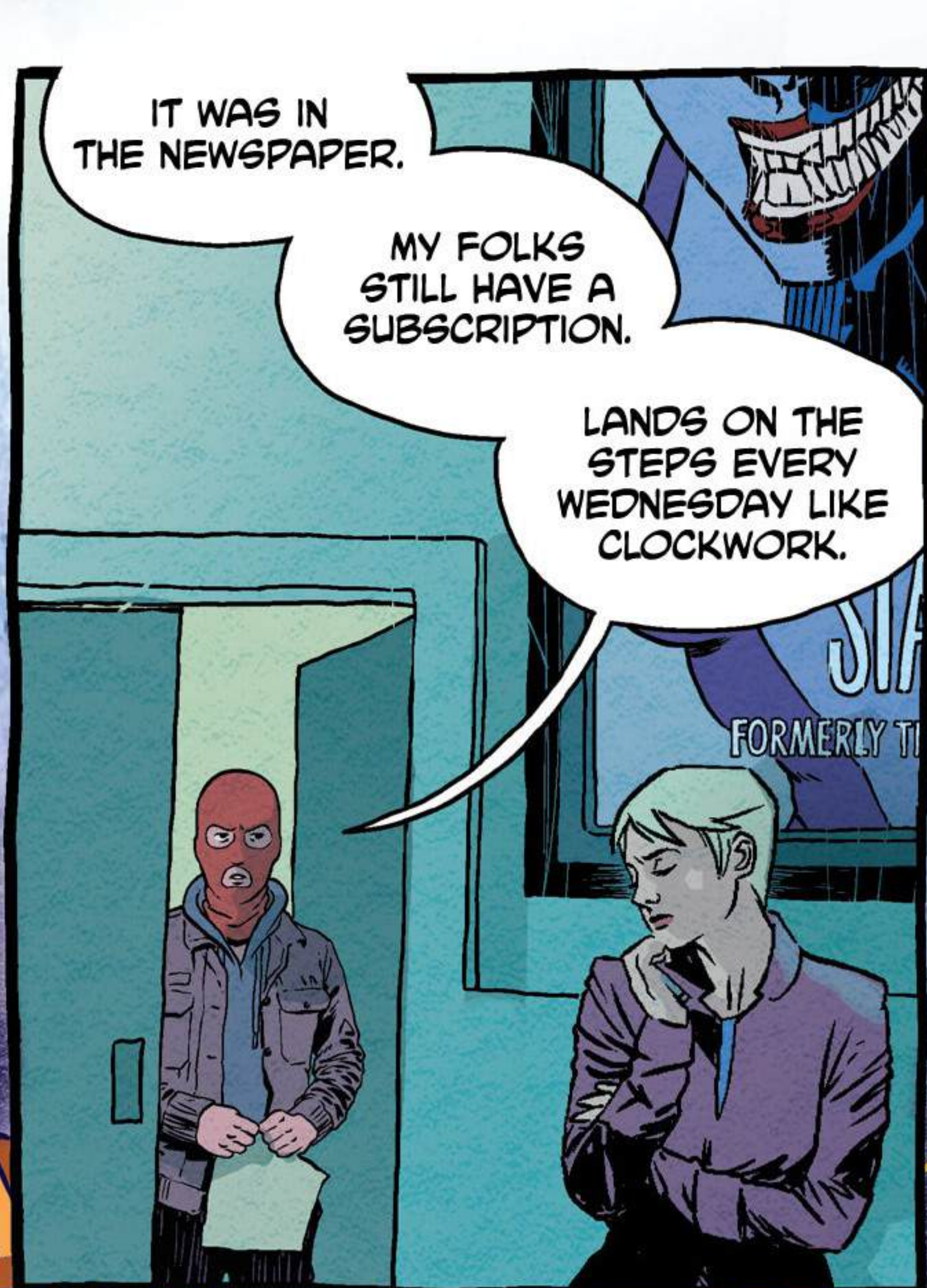
Chapter 3



AMP!22 scotey



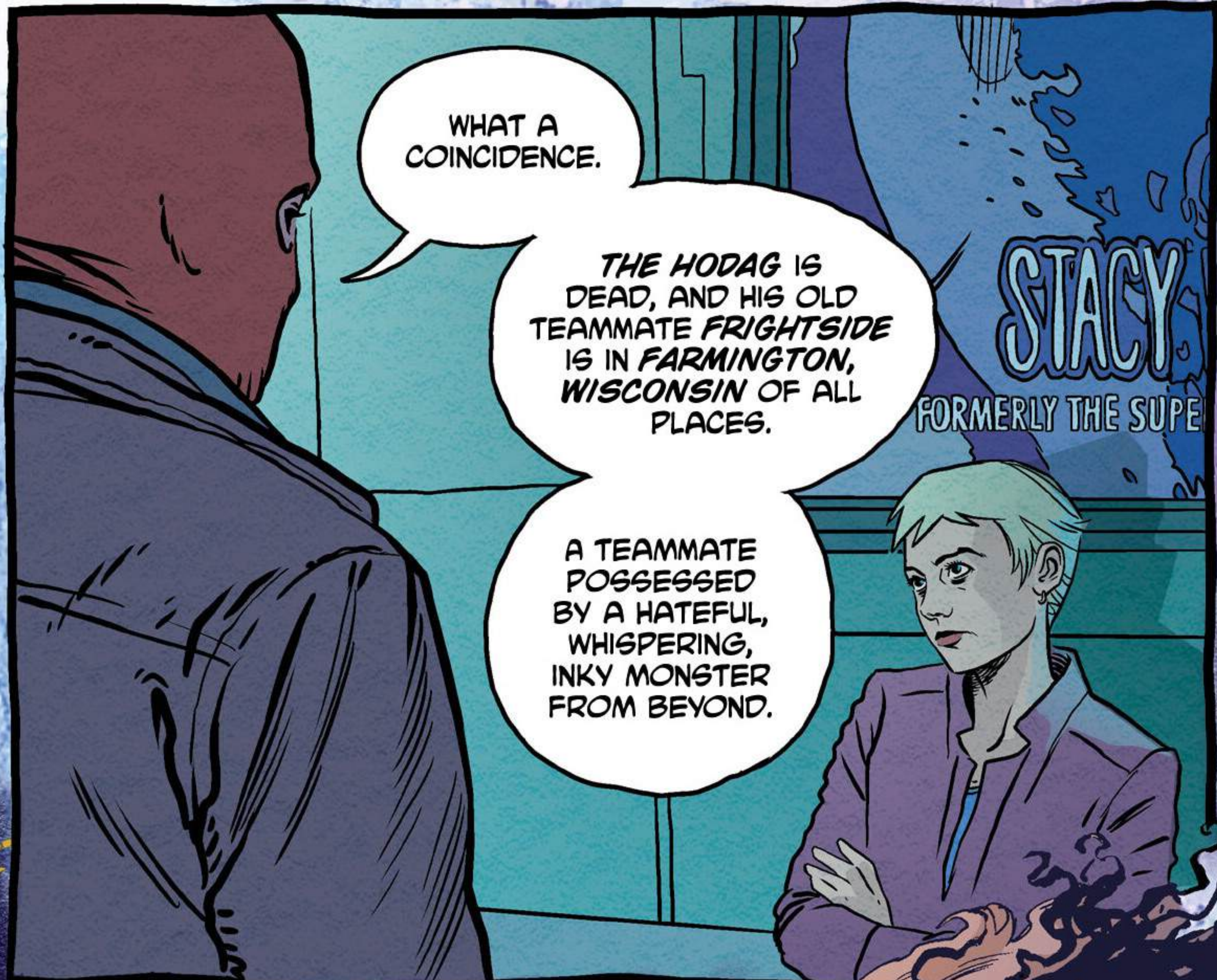




IT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER.

MY FOLKS STILL HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION.

LANDS ON THE STEPS EVERY WEDNESDAY LIKE CLOCKWORK.



WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

THE HODAG IS DEAD, AND HIS OLD TEAMMATE *FRIGHTSIDE* IS IN *FARMINGTON, WISCONSIN* OF ALL PLACES.

A TEAMMATE POSSESSED BY A HATEFUL, WHISPERING, INKY MONSTER FROM BEYOND.



WHAT WAS DONE TO HIS BODY, STACY...

I SAW PICTURES.

ONLY SOMETHING INHUMAN...

ONLY SOMETHING LIKE *THE FRIGHT* COULD DO THAT.



COULD, I SUPPOSE.

PLENTY OF TIME TO BUILD MUSCLE WHEN YOU'RE AN ANCIENT GOD FROM BEFORE TIME.

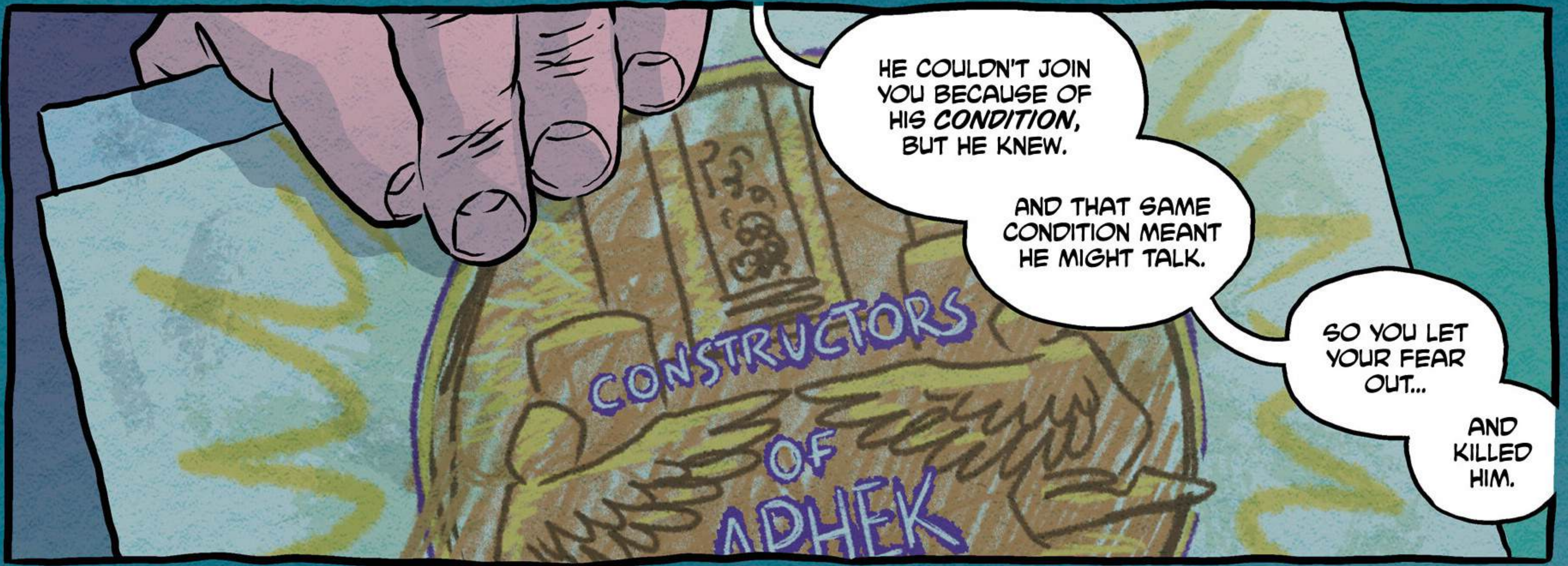


BUT WHY WOULD THE *FRIGHT* DO THAT?

HODAG KNEW *THE DESOLATORS* WERE UP TO SOMETHING.

LOOKING FOR THE *APHEK ENGINE* AGAIN.

MERC-ING FOR THE *FACELESS HORDE* MAYBE.



HE COULDN'T JOIN
YOU BECAUSE OF
HIS *CONDITION*,
BUT HE KNEW.

AND THAT SAME
CONDITION MEANT
HE MIGHT TALK.

SO YOU LET
YOUR FEAR
OUT...

AND
KILLED
HIM.



HA.



HAHAHAHA.



HAHA
HRN HRK

KOFF KOFF

I'M
SORRY...

KOFF

I'M SORRY.
THE WHOLE JOCK
KNIGHT DETECTIVE
THING WAS
KILLING ME.

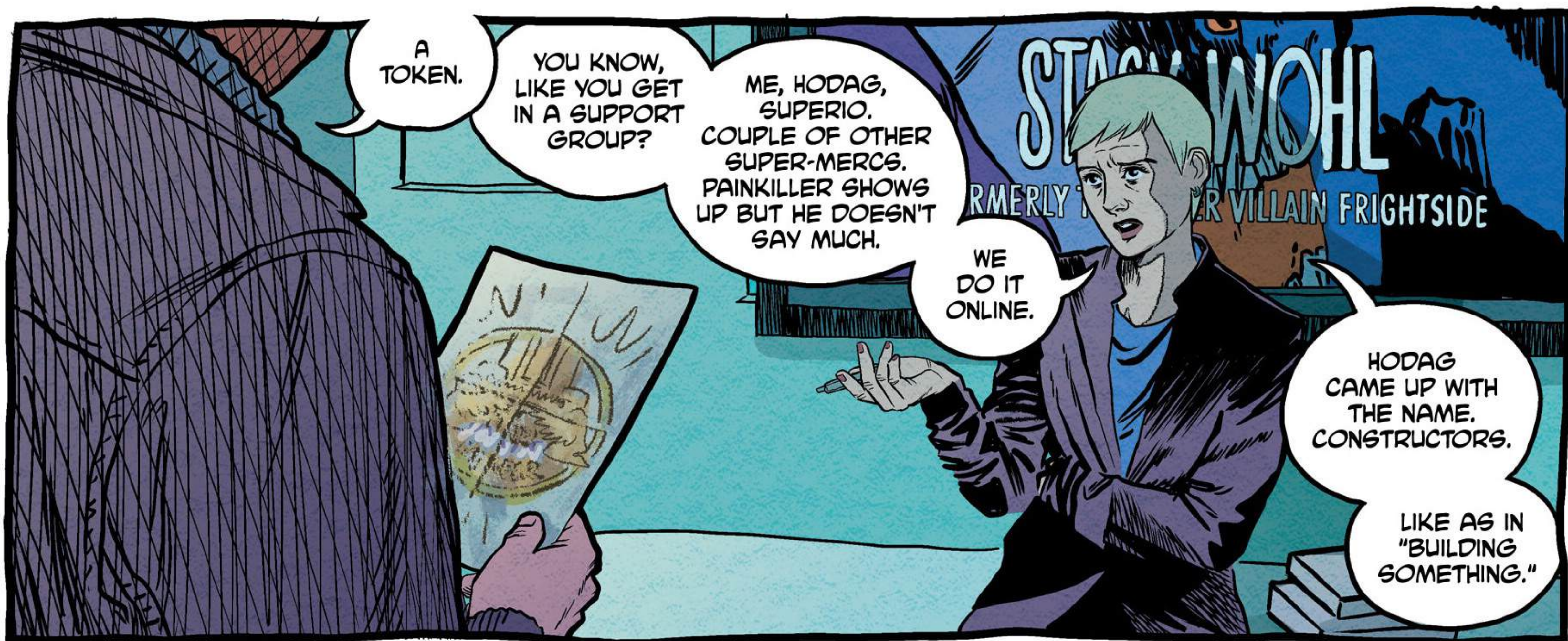
I COULDN'T
HOLD IT ANY
LONGER.
FUCK.

HA.

THAT?

IN YOUR
HAND?

IT'S A
DRAWING
OF A TOKEN,
DIPSHIT.



A
TOKEN.

YOU KNOW,
LIKE YOU GET
IN A SUPPORT
GROUP?

ME, HODAG,
SUPERIO.
COUPLE OF OTHER
SUPER-MERCS.
PAINKILLER SHOWS
UP BUT HE DOESN'T
SAY MUCH.

WE
DO IT
ONLINE.

HODAG
CAME UP WITH
THE NAME.
CONSTRUCTORS.

LIKE AS IN
"BUILDING
SOMETHING."



I FIGURED IF I WAS
GOING TO TELL THE WORLD
HOW I CONTROLLED *MY*
DEMON BEFORE IT ATE ME
ALIVE, THE LEAST I COULD
DO WAS OFFER IT TO MY
OLD FRIENDS OR WHAT-
EVER WE ALL WERE.

I MEAN, MY
SECRET WAS *CBD*, BUT
EVERYONE'S
DIFFERENT.

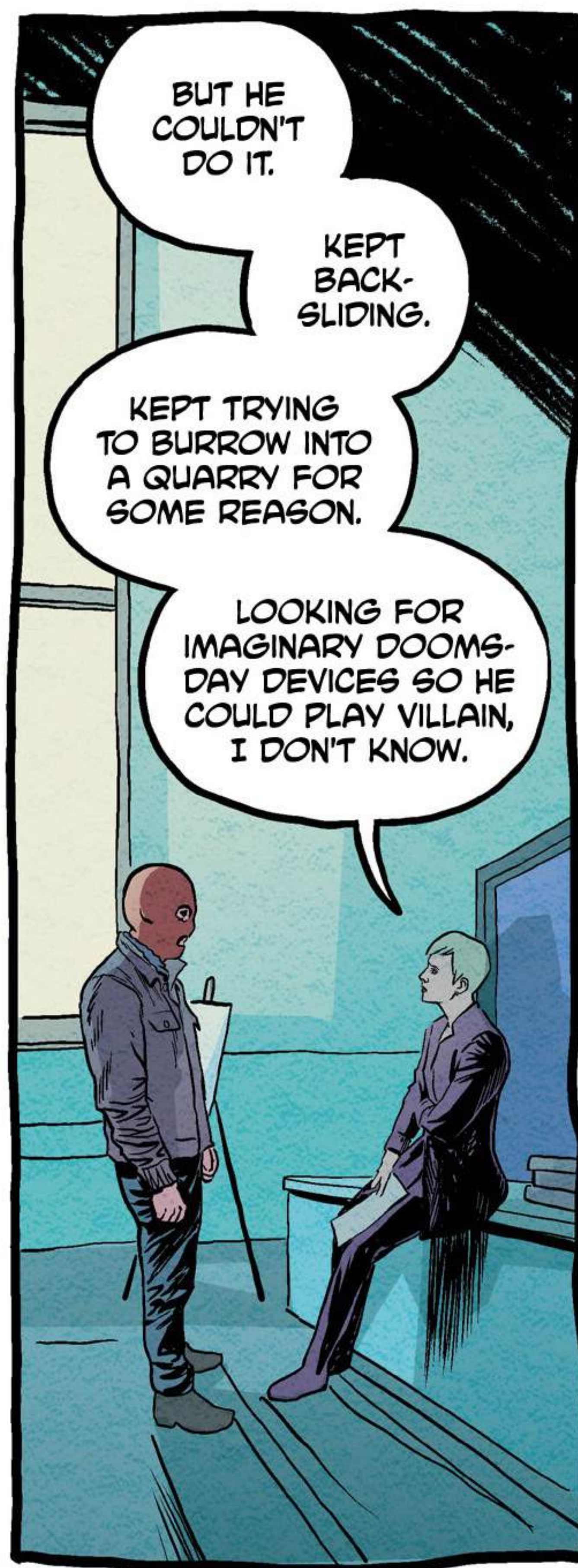


HODAG HAD
ONE OF THOSE
MEMORIES,
YOU KNOW?

AFTER
THE INJURY.
EIDETIC.

COULD REPRODUCE
THINGS HE'D SEEN
LIKE THIS, EVEN IF
IT LOOKED LIKE IT
WAS DONE BY A
TODDLER.

JEREMY WANTED
A TOKEN SO BAD.
THAT'S WHY HE
DREW THIS.



BUT HE
COULDN'T
DO IT.

KEPT
BACK-
SLIDING.

KEPT TRYING
TO BURROW INTO
A QUARRY FOR
SOME REASON.

LOOKING FOR
IMAGINARY DOOMS-
DAY DEVICES SO HE
COULD PLAY VILLAIN,
I DON'T KNOW.



I WAS HIS SPONSOR.

I SCHEDULED A SIGNING HERE ON THE LAST LEG OF MY TOUR SO I COULD HELP HIM.

BUT I DIDN'T SEE IT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

NOW I'M JUST STAYING FOR THE FUNERAL.



I MEAN, I SOLD A GODDAMN MILLION AND A HALF BOOKS, JACK.

WHY THE HELL ELSE WOULD I COME TO THIS DEAD-END TOWN?



JEREMY. DID...

DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME IN THOSE MEETINGS?

YEAH. YEAH I GUESS.

YOU WEREN'T REAL POPULAR AMONG THE OTHER CONSTRUCTORS.

MAYBE MORE SO THAN *CRUSADER* OR *CUTTING EDGE*, BUT STILL...



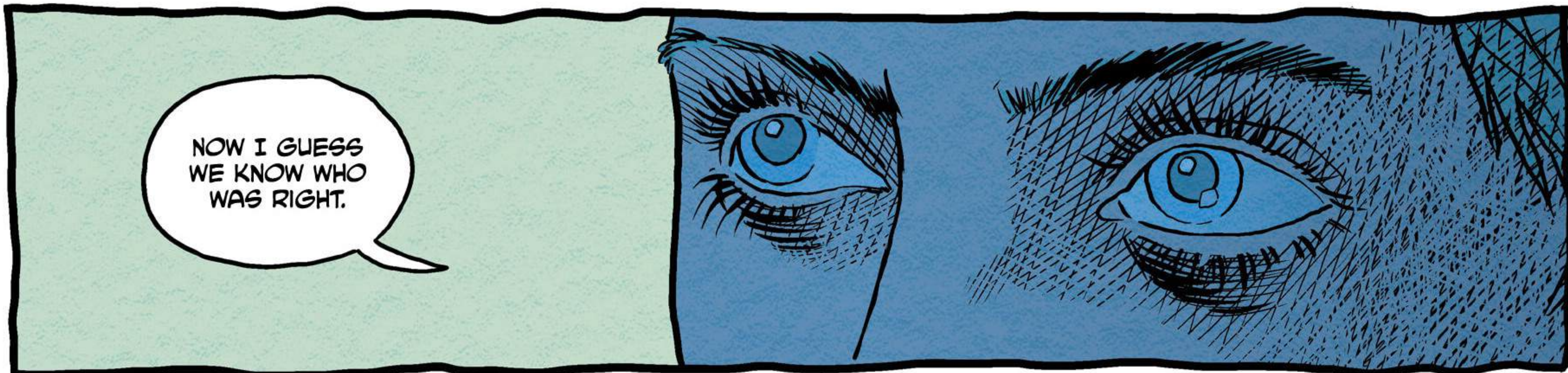
WE ALL THOUGHT
YOU WERE JUST AS
SELFISH AS ANY
OF US USED TO BE.
MAYBE MORE SO.

JEREMY
SAID YOU WERE
MISUNDERSTOOD.
LIKE HIM.

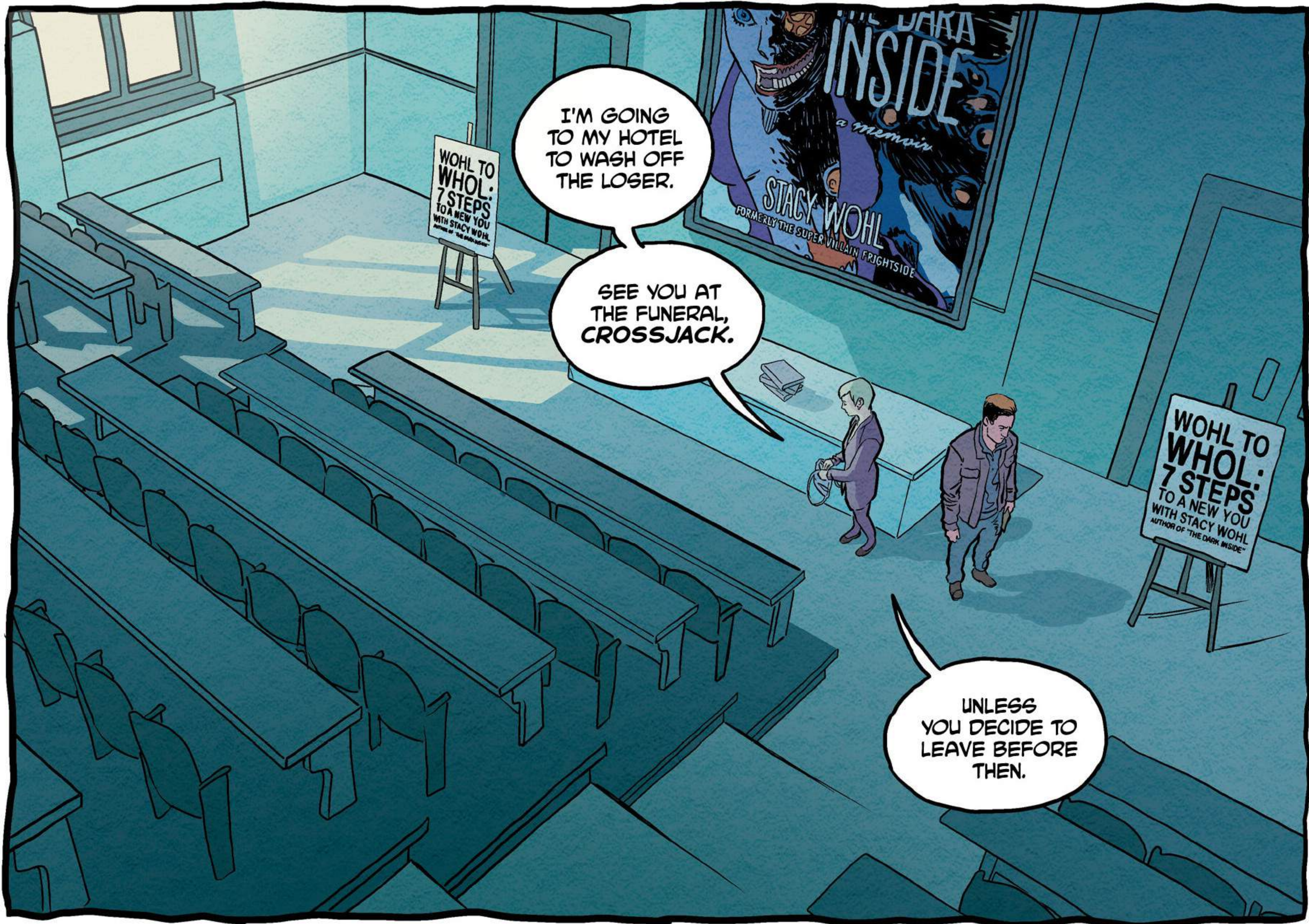


HE SAID YOU
WERE IN PAIN
TOO. THAT YOU'D
BEEN LIED TO.

HE SAID
YOU'D TRY
TO FIX THE
HURT.



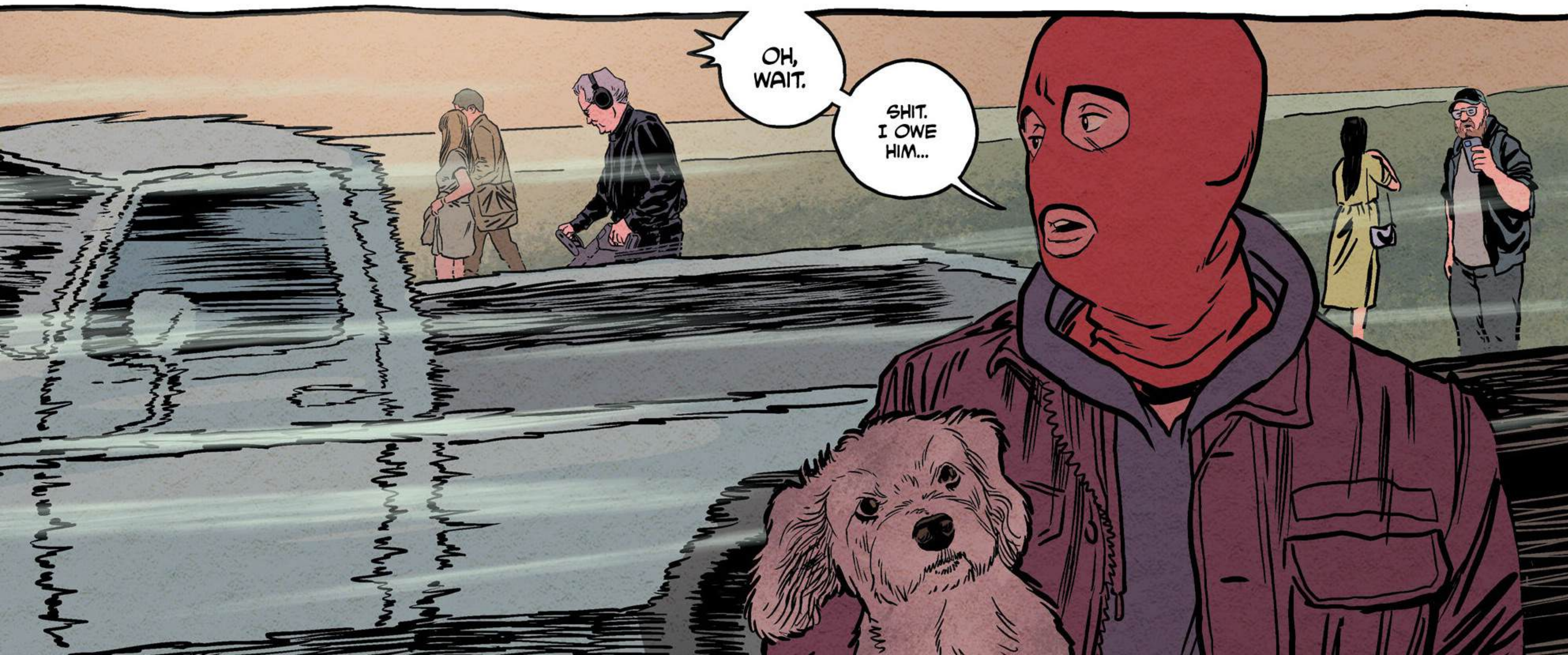
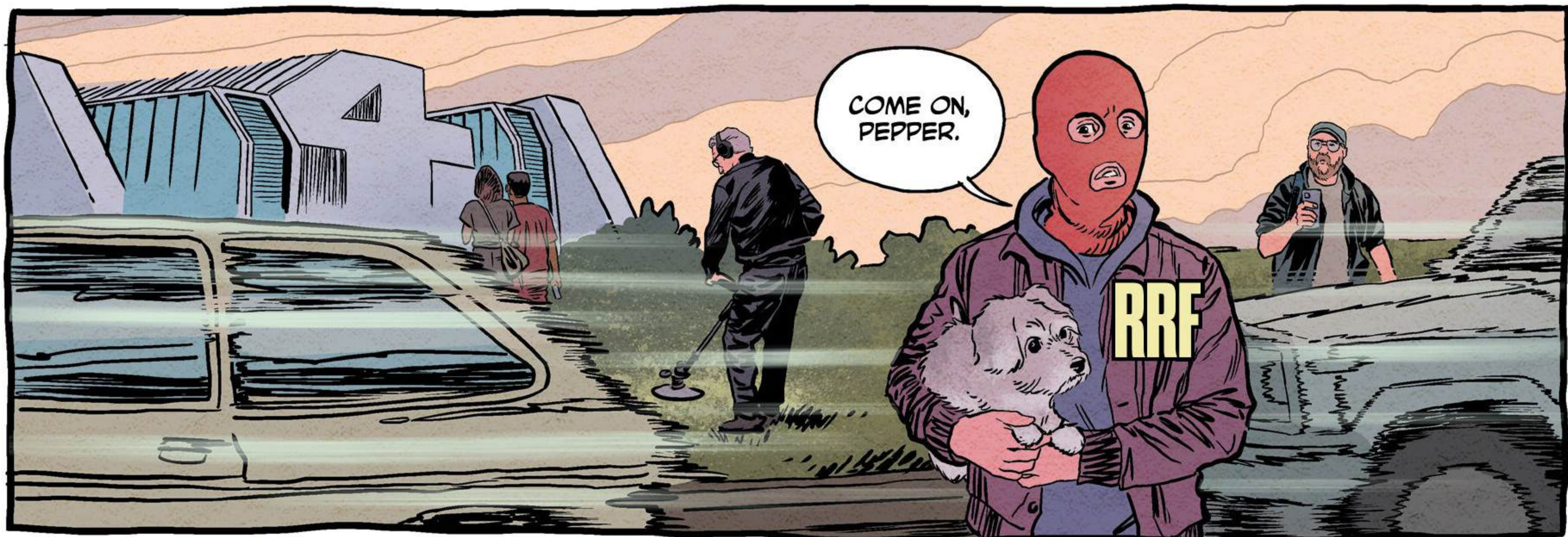
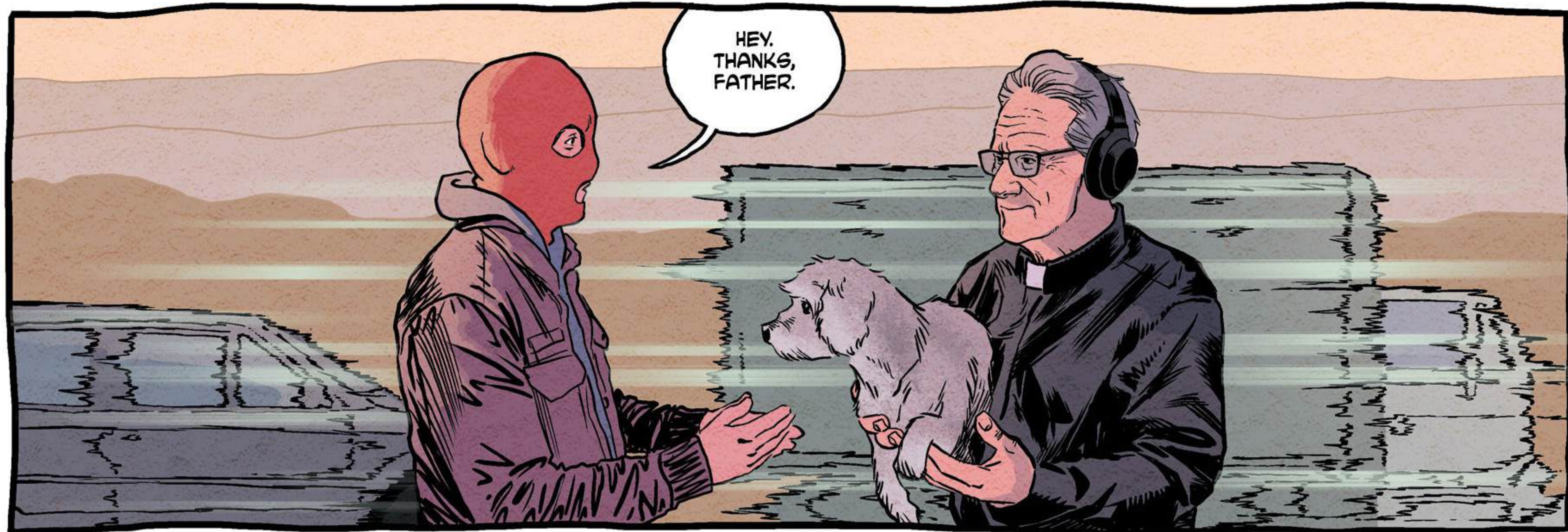
NOW I GUESS
WE KNOW WHO
WAS RIGHT.

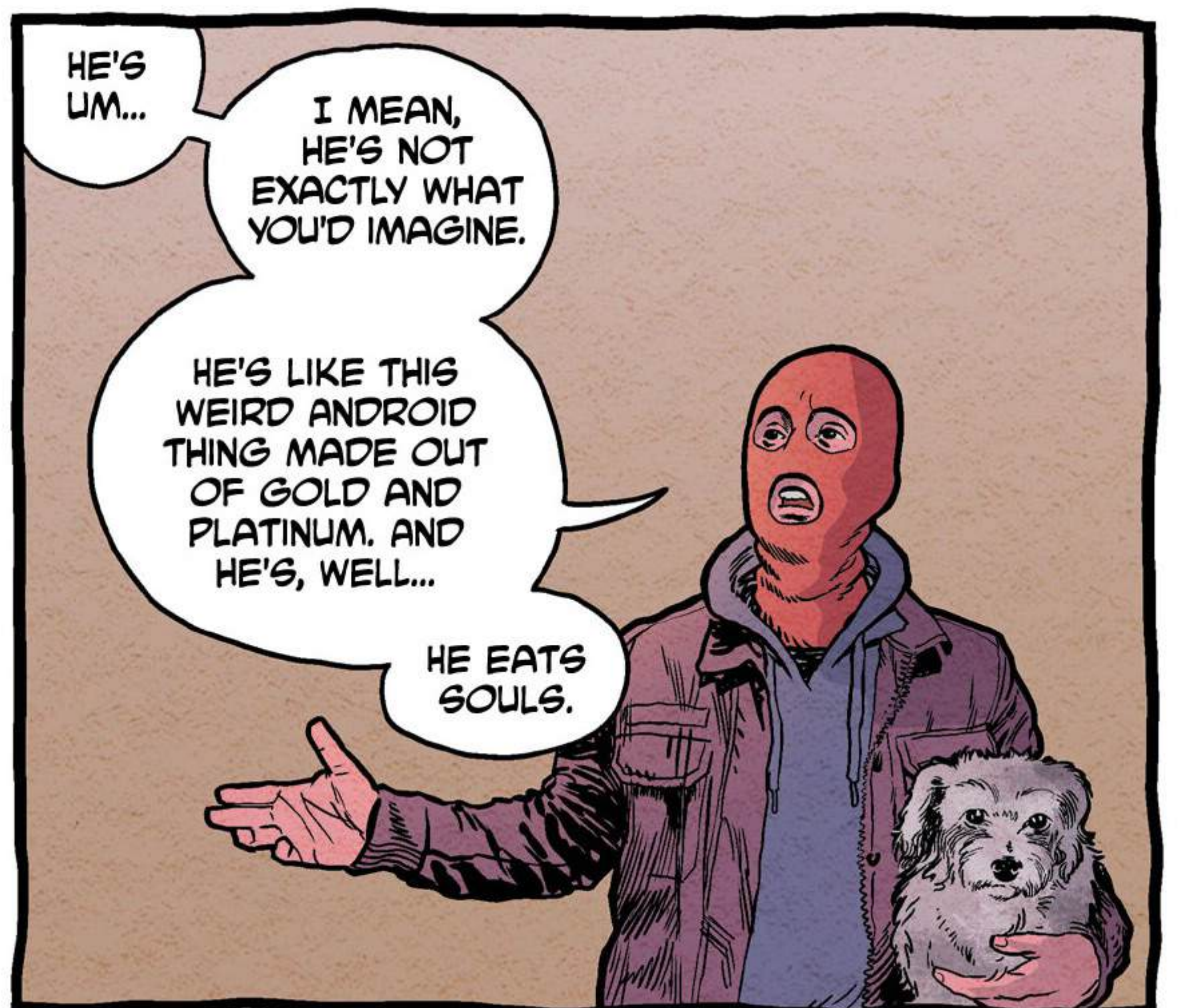


I'M GOING
TO MY HOTEL
TO WASH OFF
THE LOSER.

SEE YOU AT
THE FUNERAL,
CROSSJACK.

UNLESS
YOU DECIDE TO
LEAVE BEFORE
THEN.



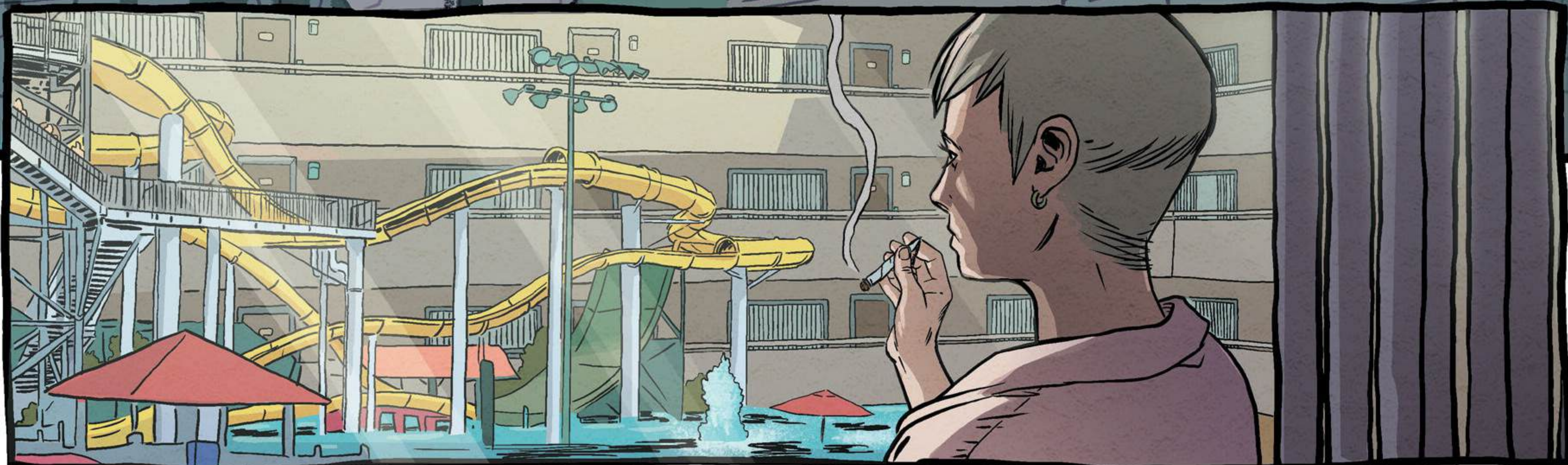




RIVER VALLEY INN AND SUITES.

WHEEE!

HAHAHAH



HEY.

I HAVEN'T
LET YOU OUT.
NOT IN
YEARS.

YOU MADE
ME DO THINGS
I DIDN'T WANT
TO DO. MADE ME
KNOW THINGS
I SHOULDN'T...



LOOK,
I TALKED
SOME SHIT AT
CROSSJACK, BUT
I HAVEN'T DONE
EVERYTHING I
COULD EITHER.

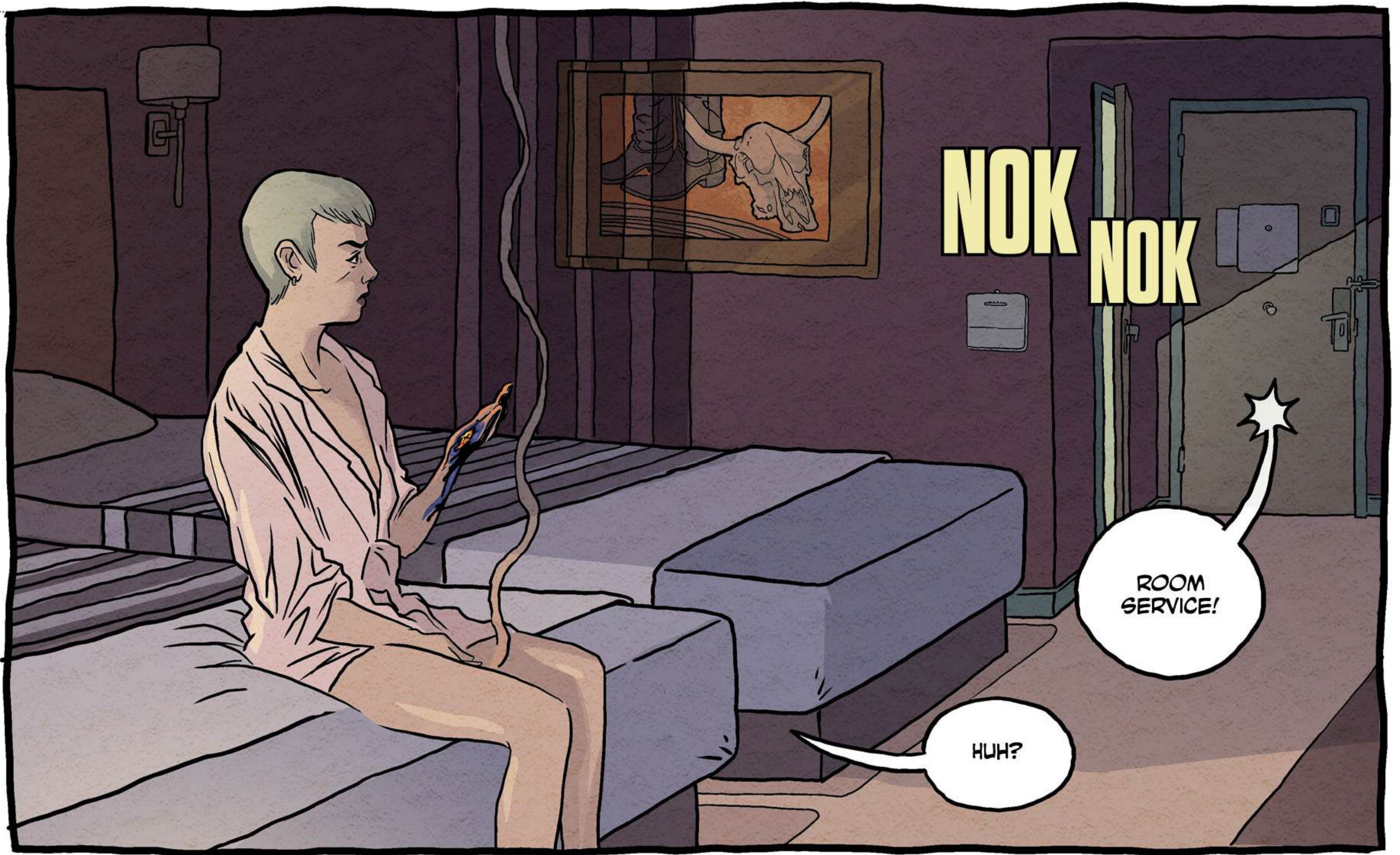
TELL ME.
FIND THE ANSWER
AND I'LL BRING YOU
TO THIS PLANE, FOR
A LITTLE PEEK OF
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN
MISSING.



FRIGHT...

WHO KILLED
HODAG?





NOK NOK

ROOM SERVICE!

HUH?



IT'S A GIFT FROM THE HOTEL. FOR YOU.

CAN YOU LEAVE IT?

WELL, I NEED YA TO SIGN FOR IT.

BOTTLE OF WINE IN HERE.



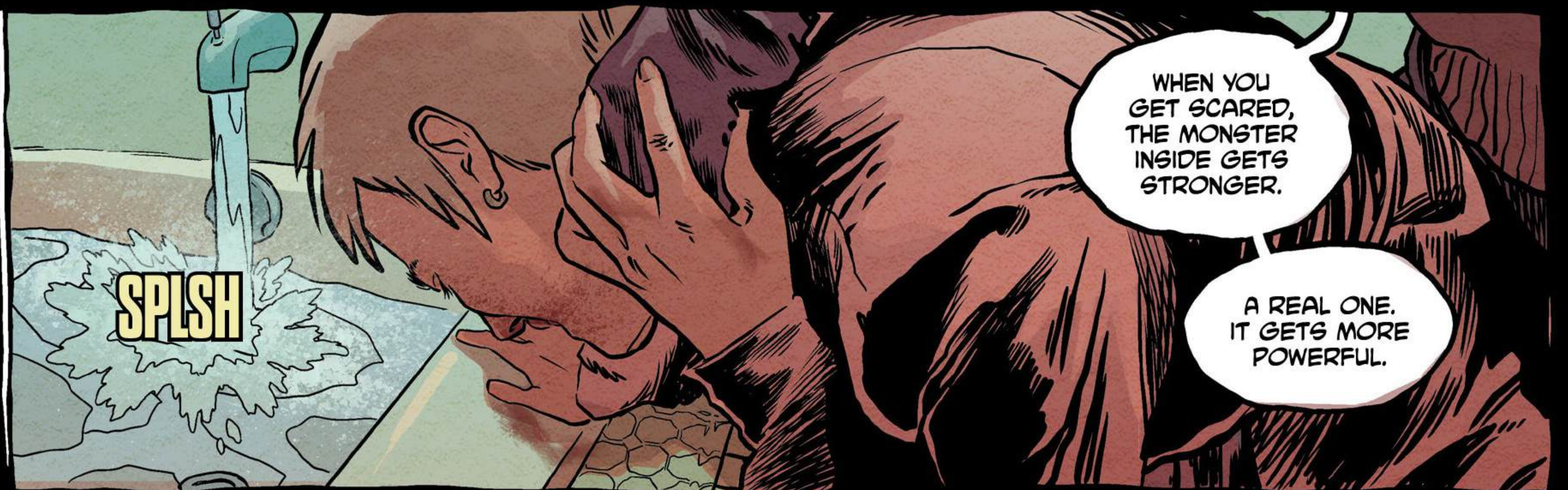
FINE, BUT IF THIS SHOWS UP ON MY BILL---

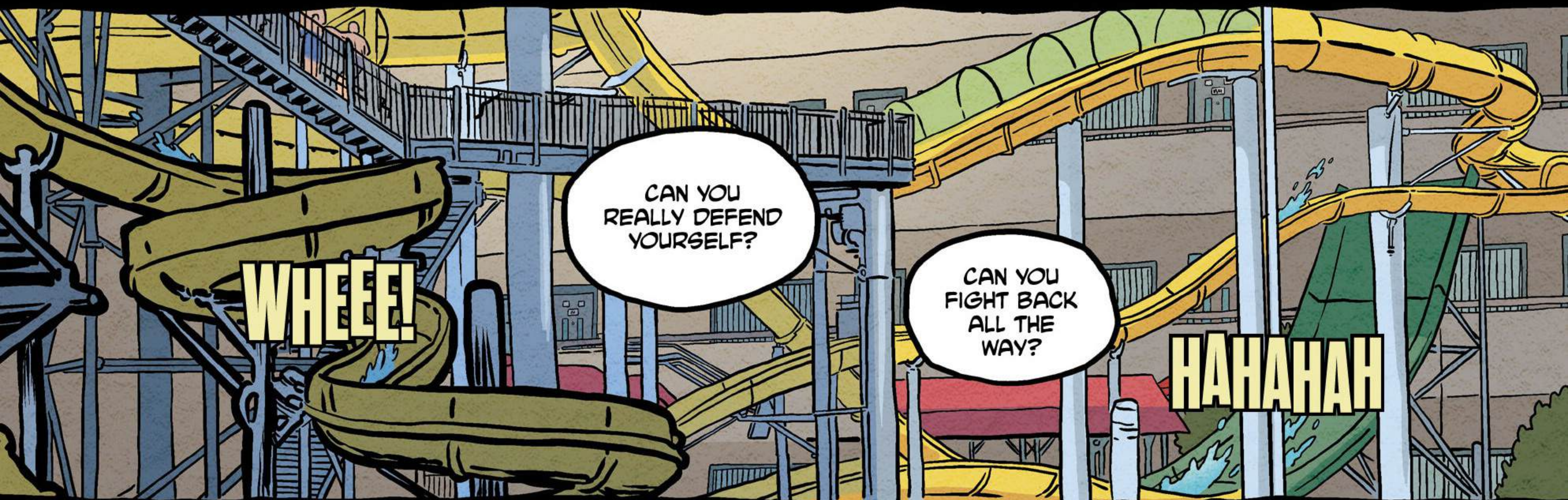


THE HELL?



HMMF!





712775108776151





SIGH

DID HE TELL
YOU THAT AT
THE JAIL?

HE MAY
HAVE
RUBBED
IT IN.

HA.

THAT IS
SO BRIAN.



BRIAN AND I
DIDN'T MEET UNTIL
I WAS ALREADY IN
MY THIRTIES.

BY THEN, YOU, ME,
AND ALL THAT AWKWARD,
PASSIONATE MAKING OUT
AND DRY HUMMING SEEMED
LIKE A LIFETIME BEFORE.



I
DUNNO.

I GUESS I FIGURED
WITH HIM BEING A COP,
AND YOU BEING LIKE,
THE ULTIMATE LAWMAN,
THERE'D BE...

...ISSUES,
I GUESS.

JEALOUSY
PROBABLY.



I MEAN,
IF THAT DIDN'T DO IT,
THE ROCK-HARD ABS
POURED INTO SPANDEX
WOULD HAVE.

HEH.

WELL, THESE
DEFINITELY
WOULDN'T HAVE
MIXED WELL WITH
YOUR BAKING.

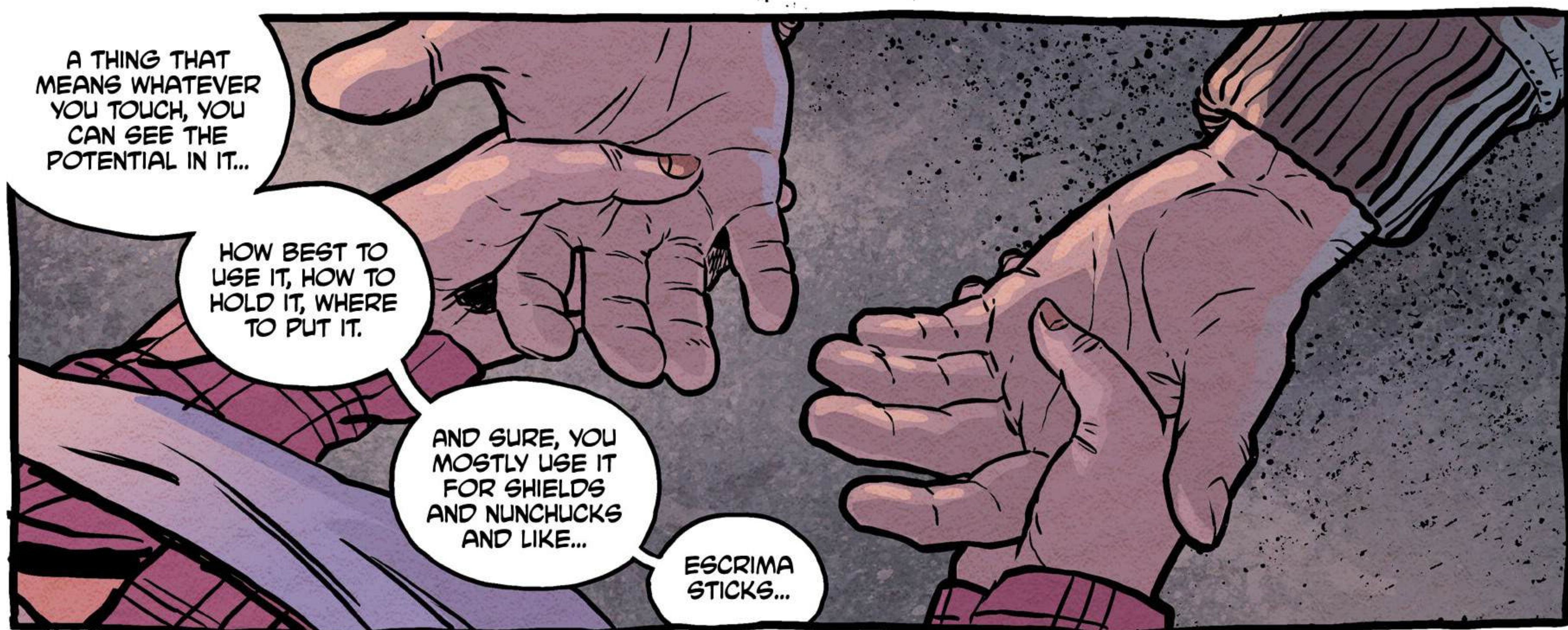


YOU KNEW ME
BEST BACK THEN.

WHY DID I LEAVE
FARMINGTON?

BECAUSE YOU
WERE BORN WITH
SOME KIND OF
THING.

BECAUSE YOU'RE
A SUPERPOWERED
BEING. OR A FREAK
OR A MUTANT OR
WHATEVER...



A THING THAT
MEANS WHATEVER
YOU TOUCH, YOU
CAN SEE THE
POTENTIAL IN IT...

HOW BEST TO
USE IT, HOW TO
HOLD IT, WHERE
TO PUT IT.

AND SURE, YOU
MOSTLY USE IT
FOR SHIELDS
AND NUNCHUCKS
AND LIKE...

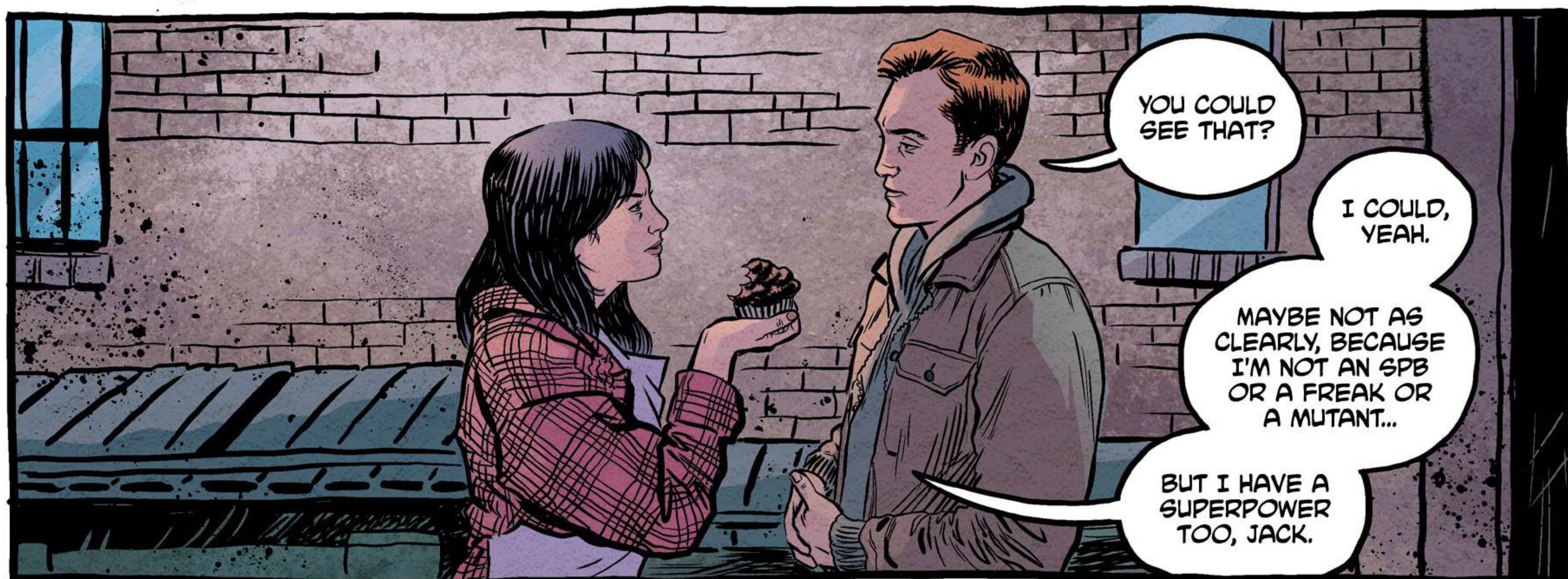
ESCRIMA
STICKS...



BUT I ALWAYS
FIGURED THAT MUST
ALSO MAKE A PLACE
LIKE FARMINGTON A
HARD PLACE TO BE
FOR YOU.

YOU CAN
ONLY GO SO
FAR HERE.

CAN ONLY DO SO
MUCH, FOR YOURSELF
OR FOR ANYONE ELSE,
IF THAT'S YOUR THING.



YOU COULD
SEE THAT?

I COULD,
YEAH.

MAYBE NOT AS
CLEARLY, BECAUSE
I'M NOT AN SPB
OR A FREAK OR
A MUTANT...

BUT I HAVE A
SUPERPOWER
TOO, JACK.

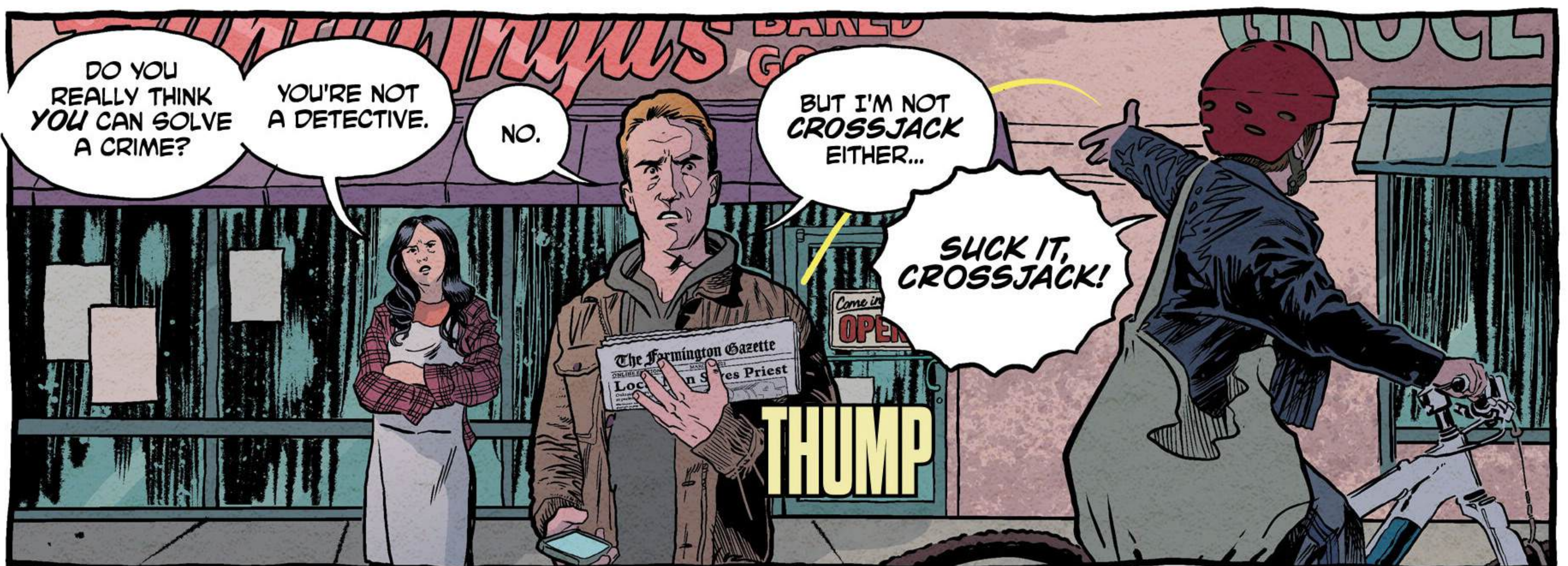


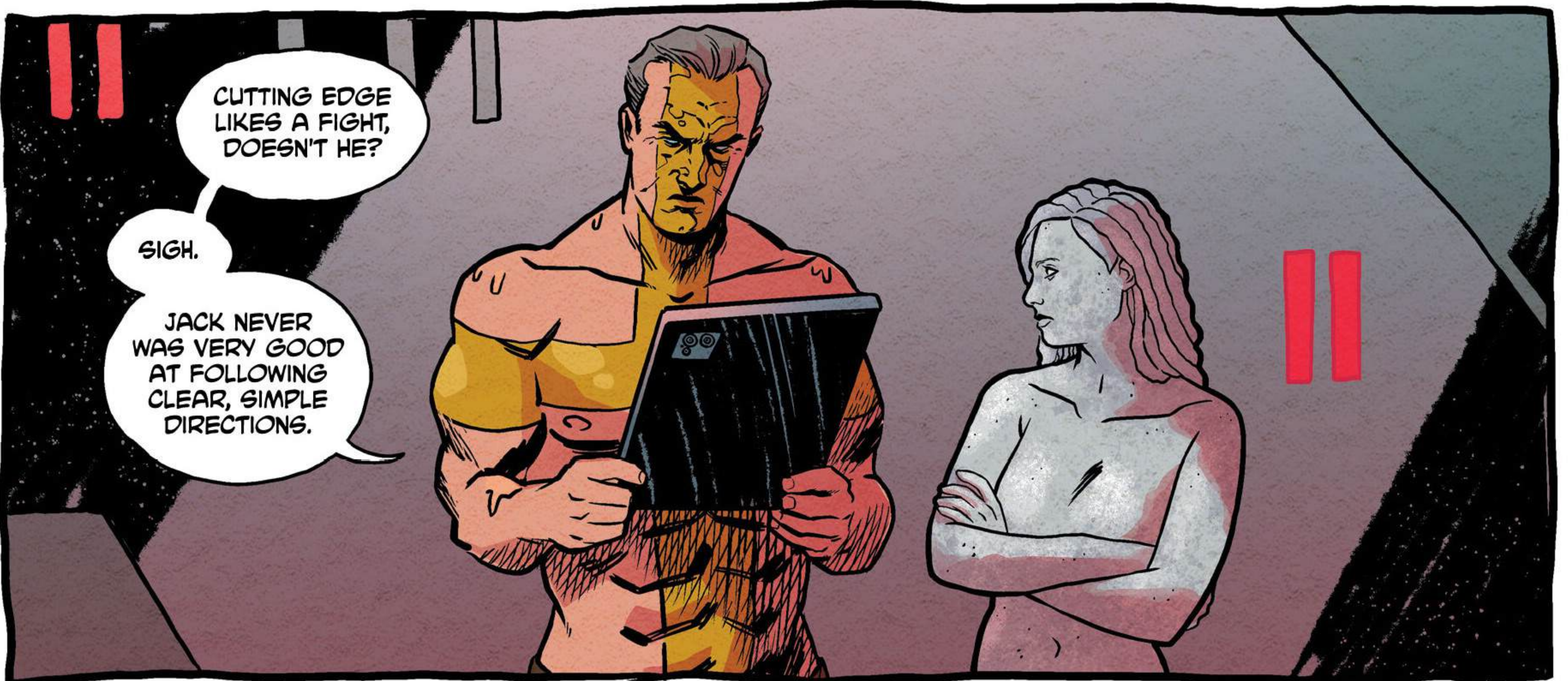
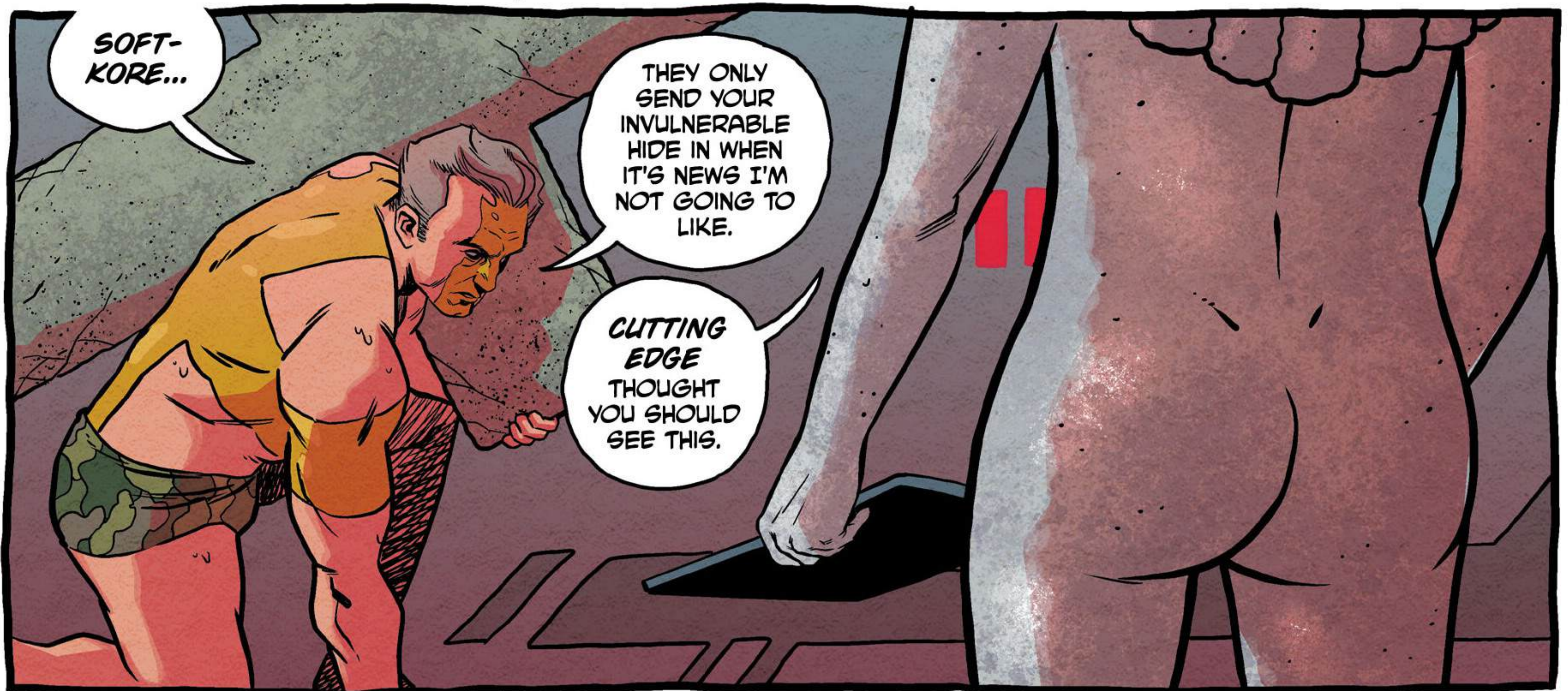
REALLY.

YEAH.

IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHERE I AM, I CAN
FORGE WHATEVER I
TOUCH INTO WHAT
I WANT IT
TO BE.

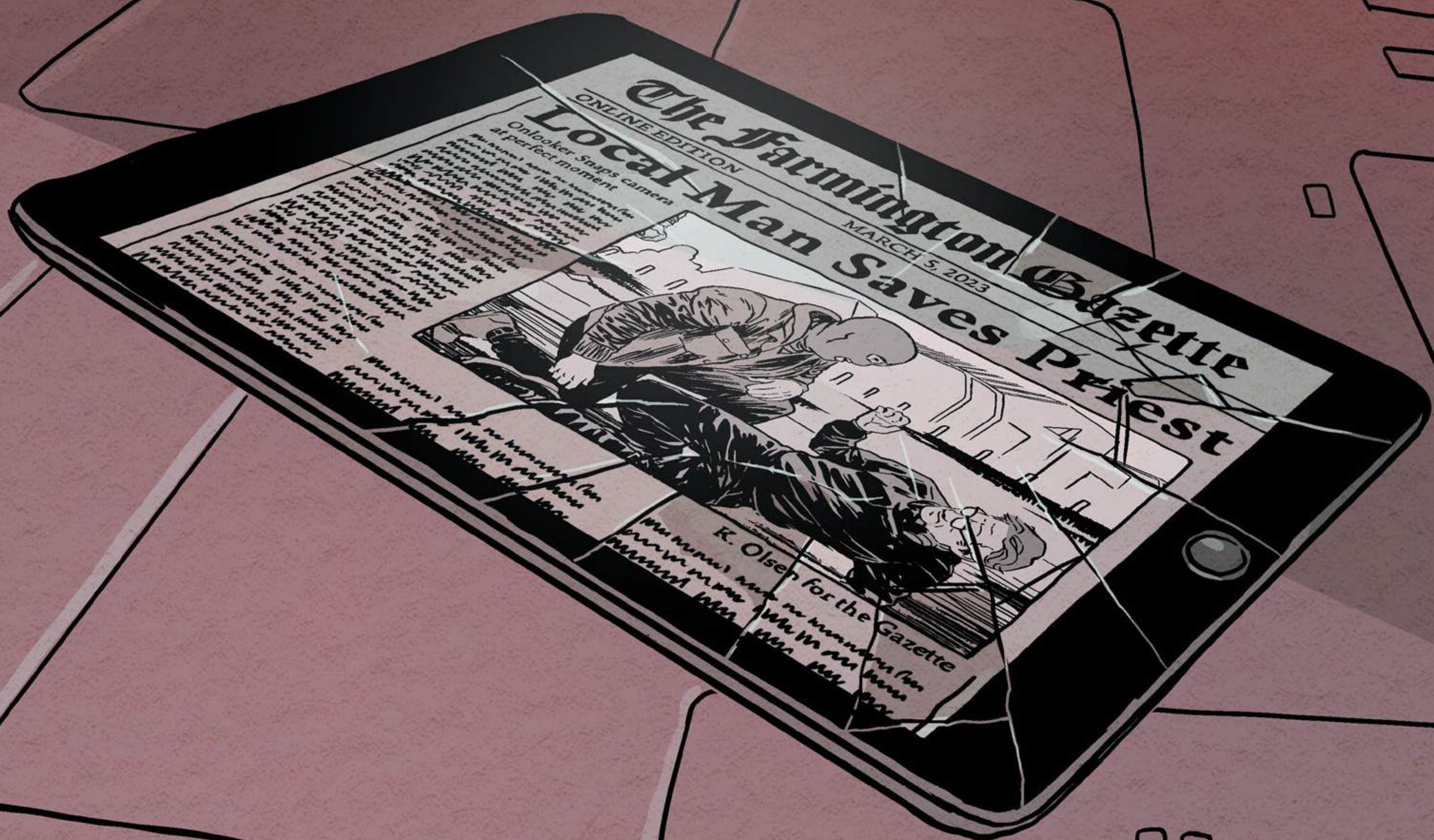




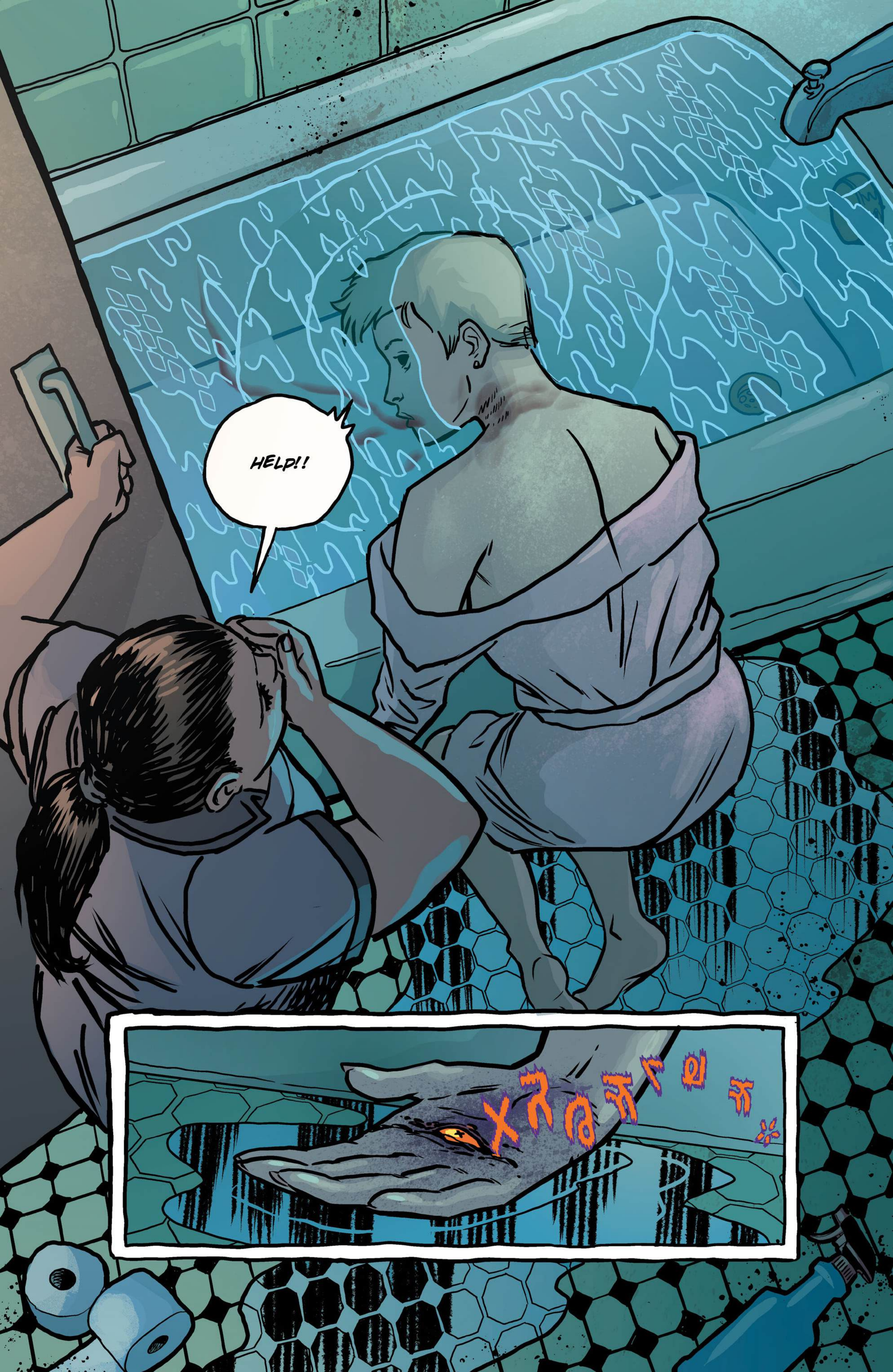


HAVE THE
TEAM HANG
BACK.

I'M GOING
TO GO HAVE A
TALK WITH THIS
"LOCAL MAN."

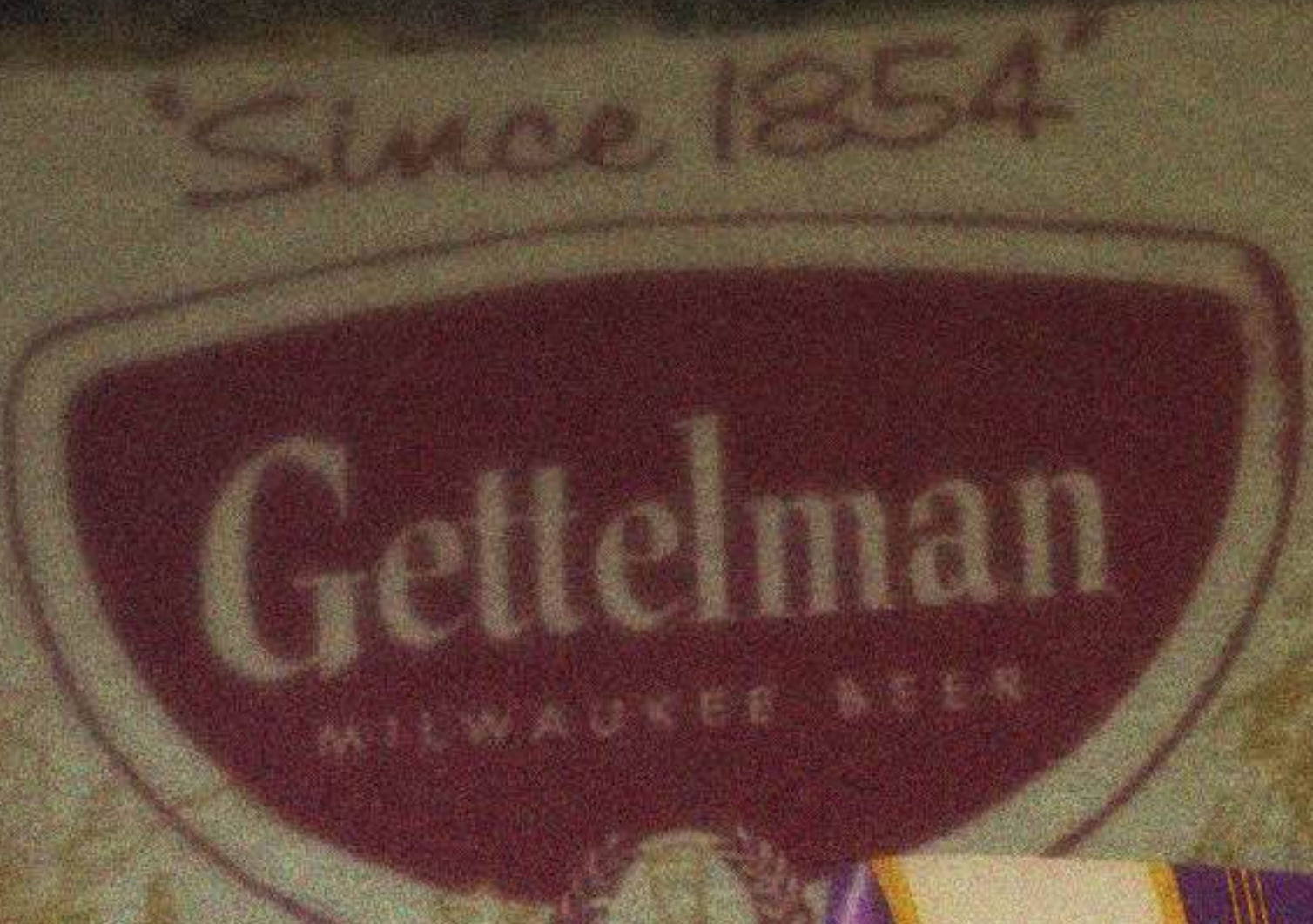






HELP!!





1 \$1.95
\$2.45
CANADA

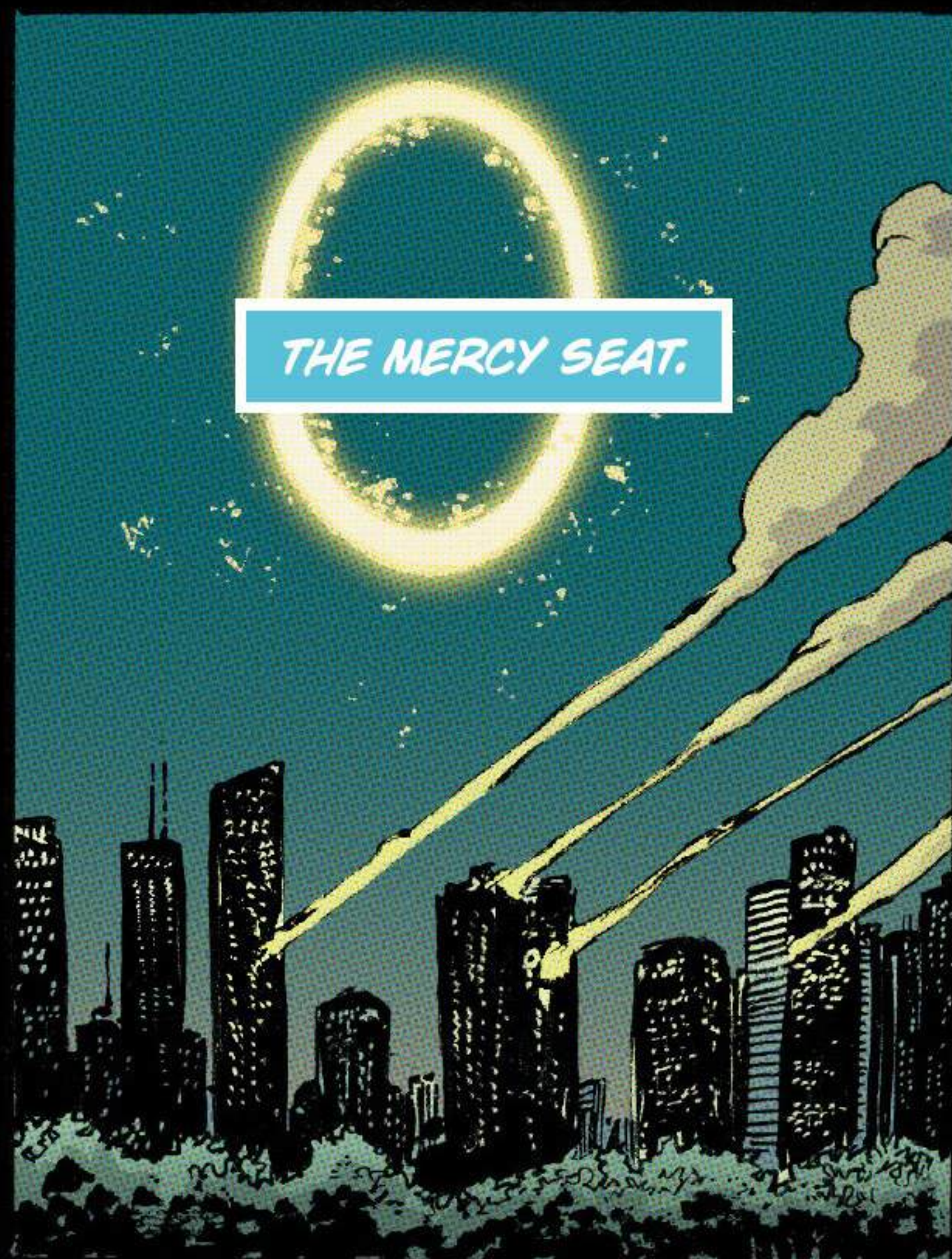
image
3 \$3.99
LOCAL MAN

THIRD OF STRIKE



Booth
Society
22
B

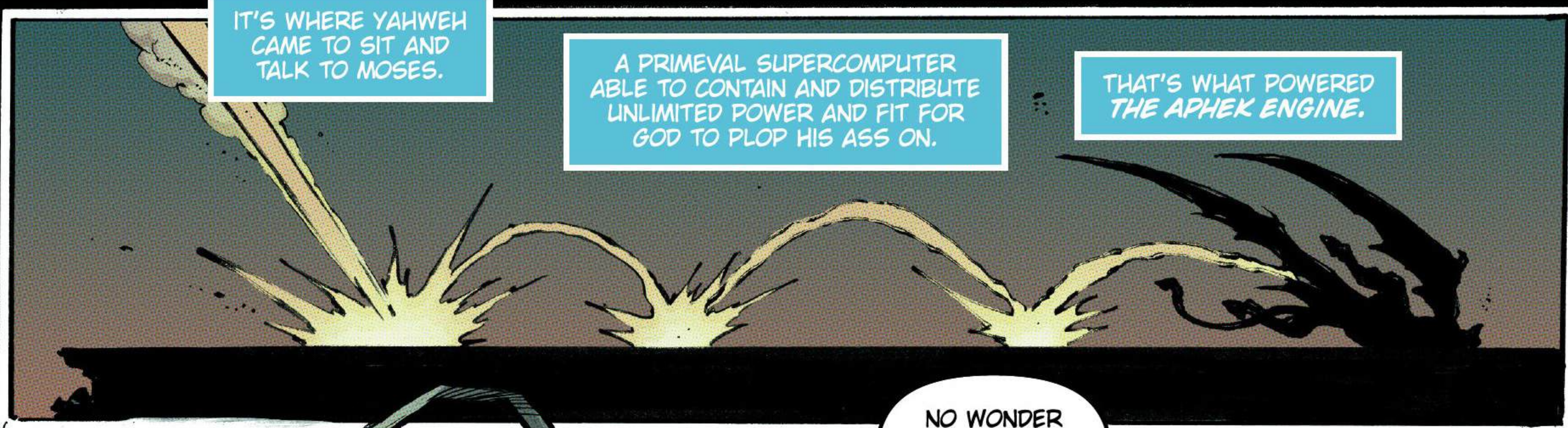
ENTER: THE DESOLATORS



THE MERCY SEAT.



IT WAS PLACED ON TOP OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, WHICH CONTAINED THE GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISRAELITES.



IT'S WHERE YAHWEH CAME TO SIT AND TALK TO MOSES.

A PRIMEVAL SUPERCOMPUTER ABLE TO CONTAIN AND DISTRIBUTE UNLIMITED POWER AND FIT FOR GOD TO PLOP HIS ASS ON.

THAT'S WHAT POWERED THE APHEK ENGINE.

NO WONDER BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL WANT IT SO BAD.

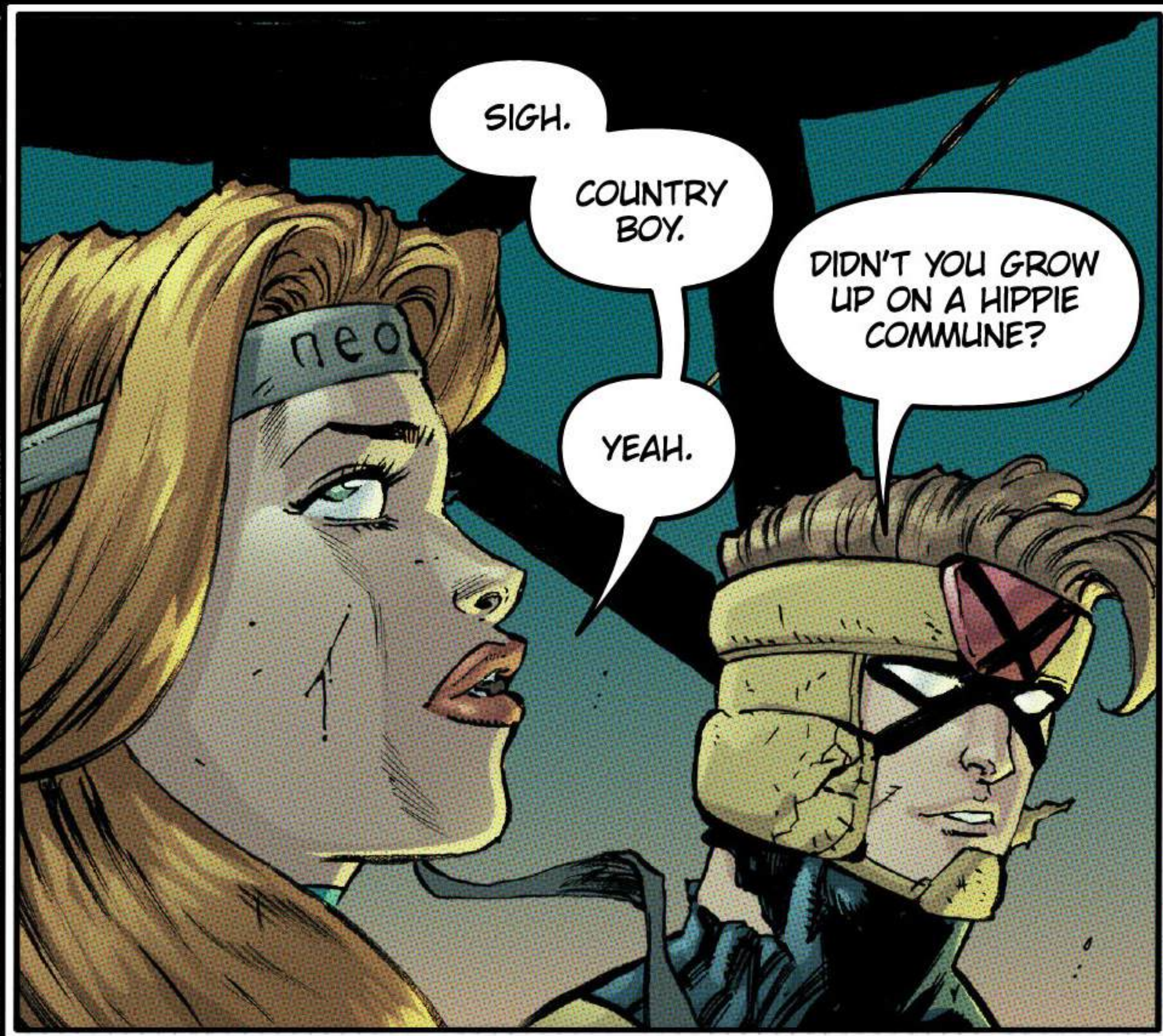
RIGHT?

UM. WELL...

IMAGE COMICS
PRESENTS:
**FALLEN
HEAVENS**
PART 11 OF A 16-PART
MEGA-EVENT!

I SAW INDIANA JONES WHEN I WAS A KID.

IS IT LIKE THAT?

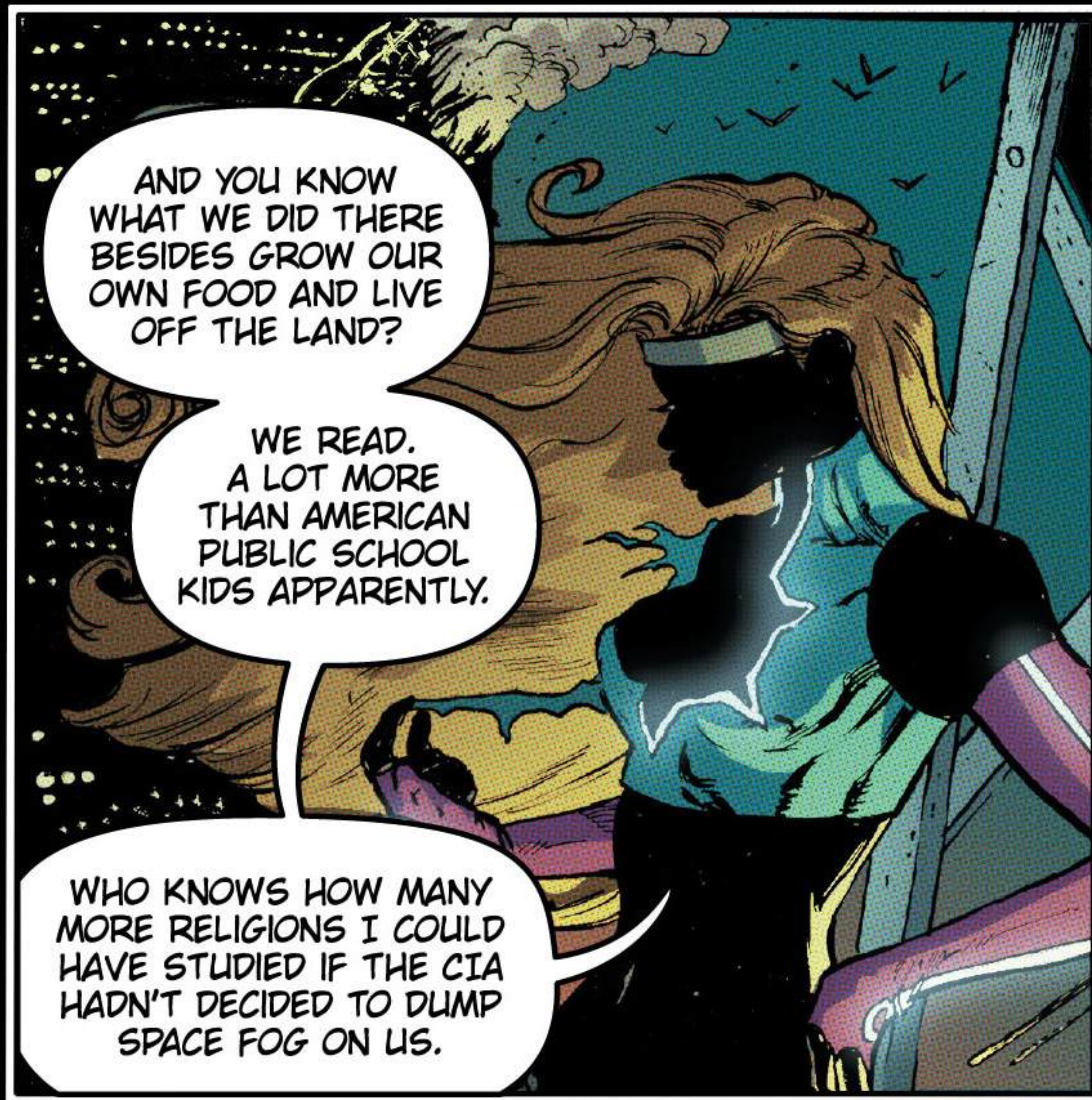


SIGH.

COUNTRY BOY.

YEAH.

DIDN'T YOU GROW UP ON A HIPPIE COMMUNE?



AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID THERE BESIDES GROW OUR OWN FOOD AND LIVE OFF THE LAND?

WE READ. A LOT MORE THAN AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS APPARENTLY.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE RELIGIONS I COULD HAVE STUDIED IF THE CIA HADN'T DECIDED TO DUMP SPACE FOG ON US.

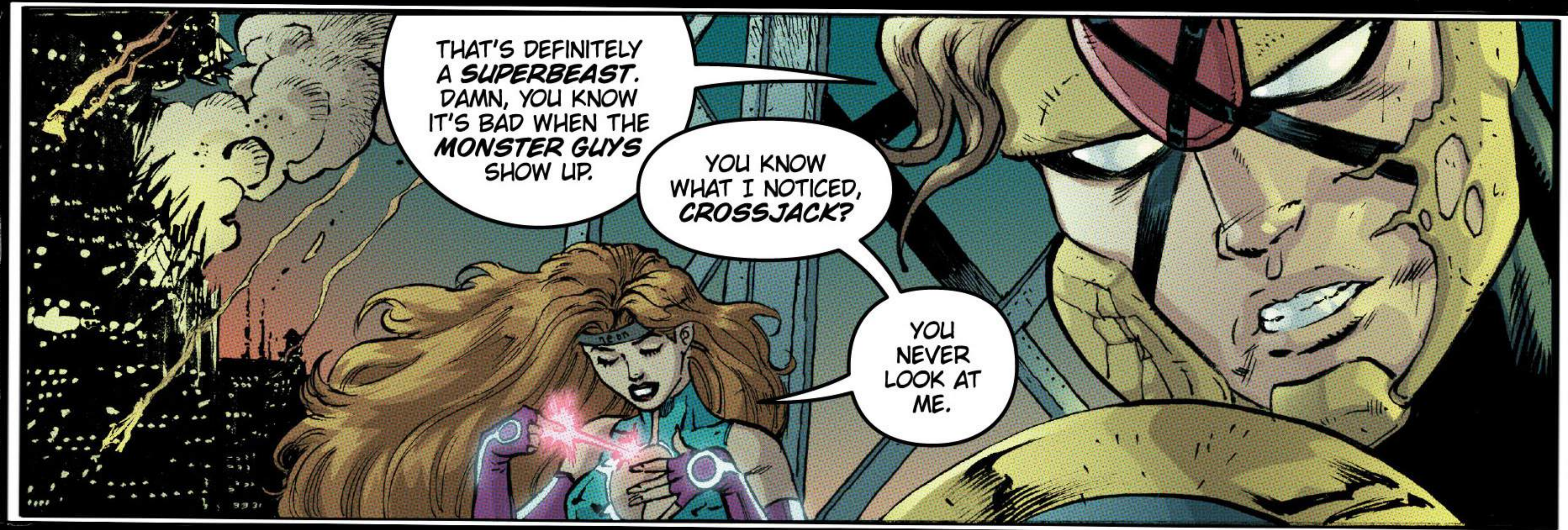


WOW.

IT LOOKS LIKE **EVERYONE** IS IN ON THIS FIGHT.

IS THAT THE **LIBERTY LORDS**?

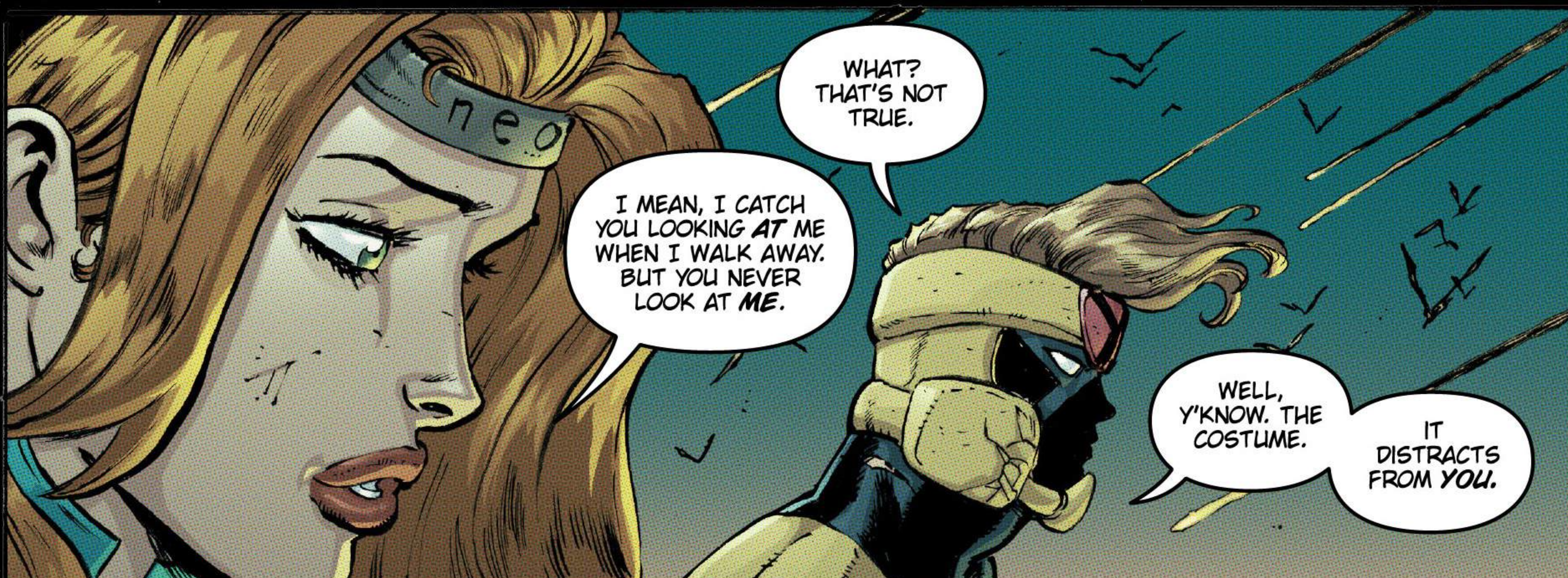
I CAN NEVER REMEMBER ALL THOSE OLD GUY TEAMS. **ALLIED FORCE** MAYBE?



THAT'S DEFINITELY A **SUPERBEAST**. DAMN, YOU KNOW IT'S BAD WHEN THE **MONSTER GUYS** SHOW UP.

YOU KNOW WHAT I NOTICED, **CROSSJACK**?

YOU NEVER LOOK AT ME.

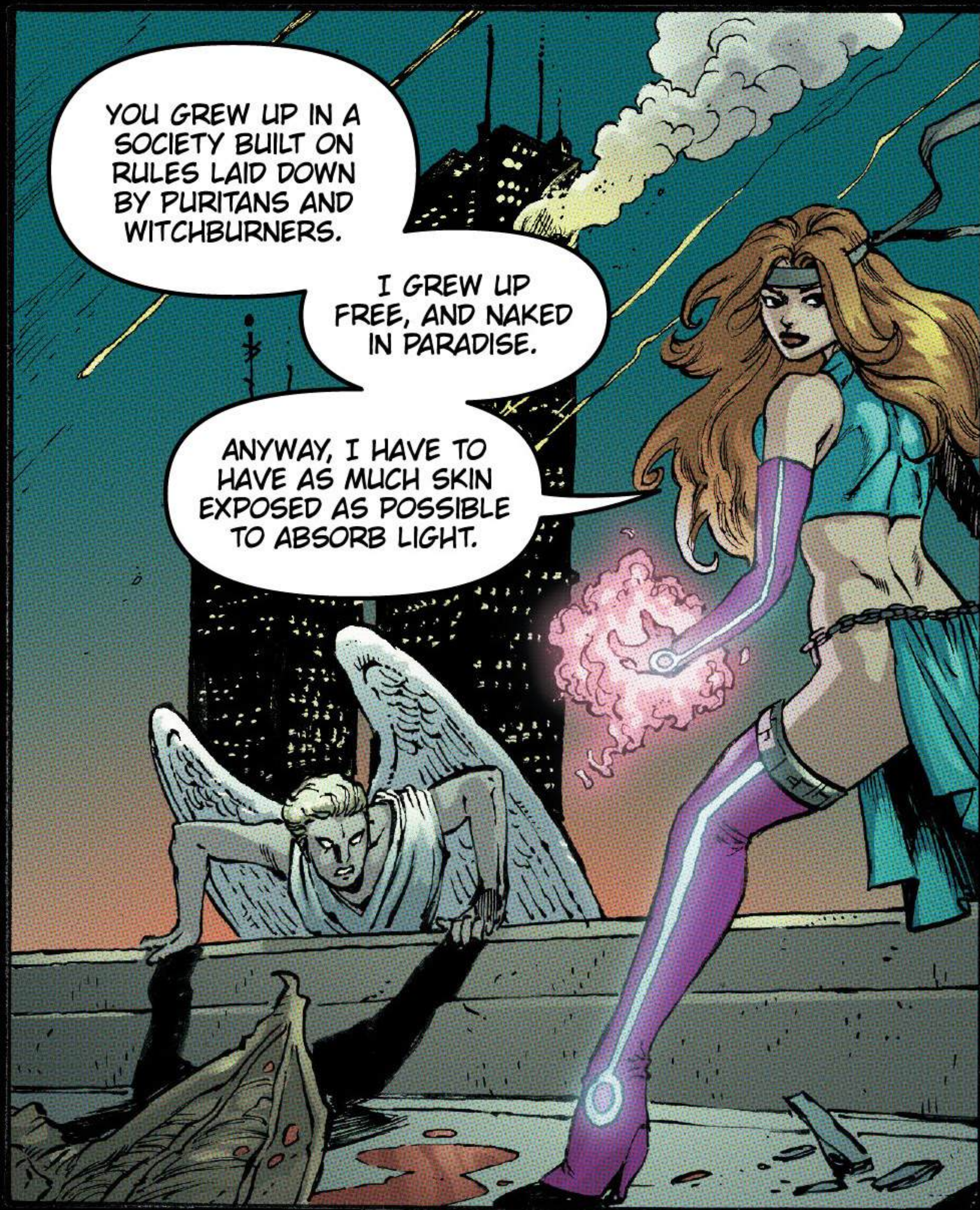


WHAT? THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I MEAN, I CATCH YOU LOOKING **AT** ME WHEN I WALK AWAY. BUT YOU NEVER LOOK **AT** ME.

WELL, Y'KNOW. THE COSTUME.

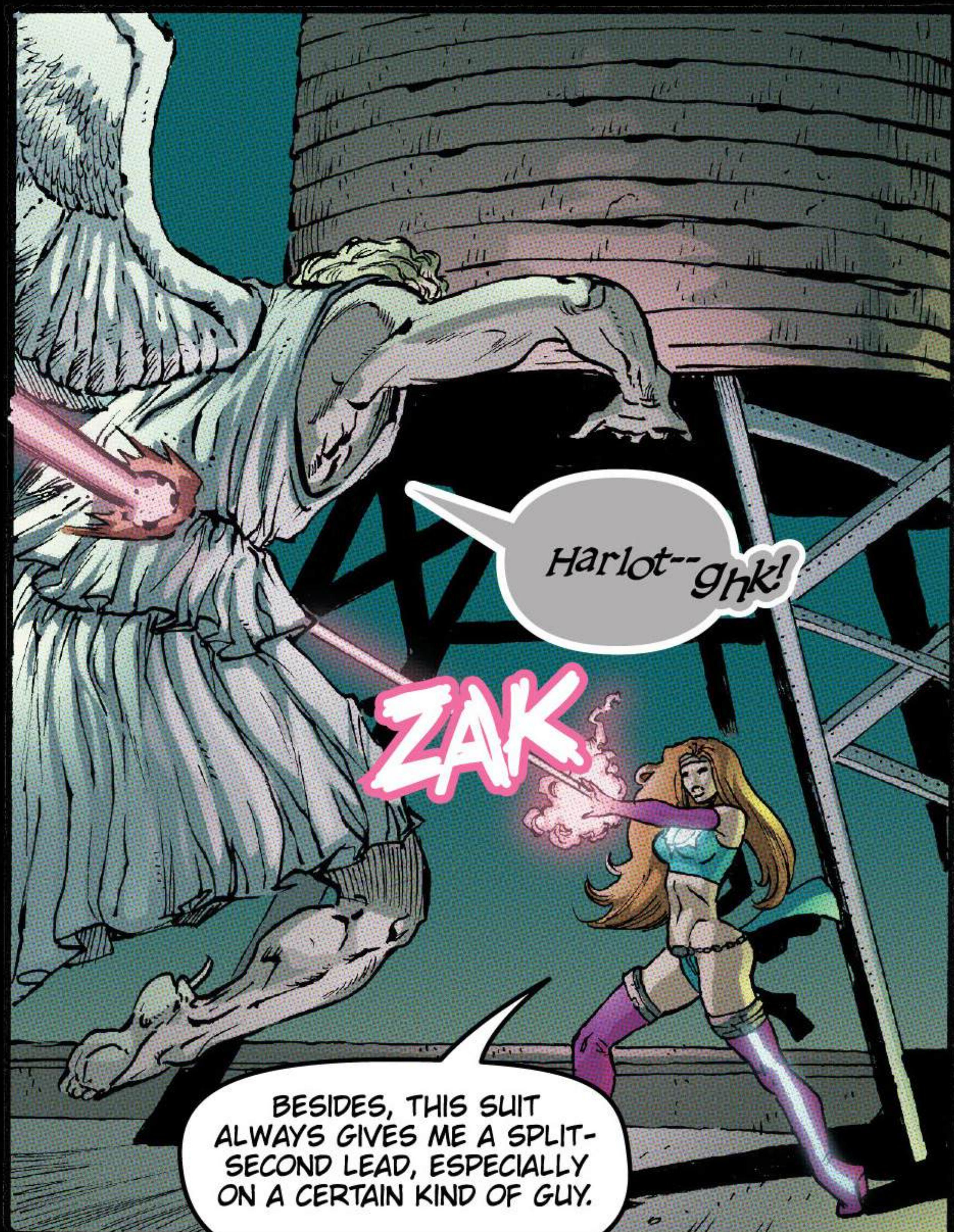
IT DISTRACTS FROM **YOU**.



YOU GREW UP IN A SOCIETY BUILT ON RULES LAID DOWN BY PURITANS AND WITCHBURNERS.

I GREW UP FREE, AND NAKED IN PARADISE.

ANYWAY, I HAVE TO HAVE AS MUCH SKIN EXPOSED AS POSSIBLE TO ABSORB LIGHT.



Harlot--ghk!

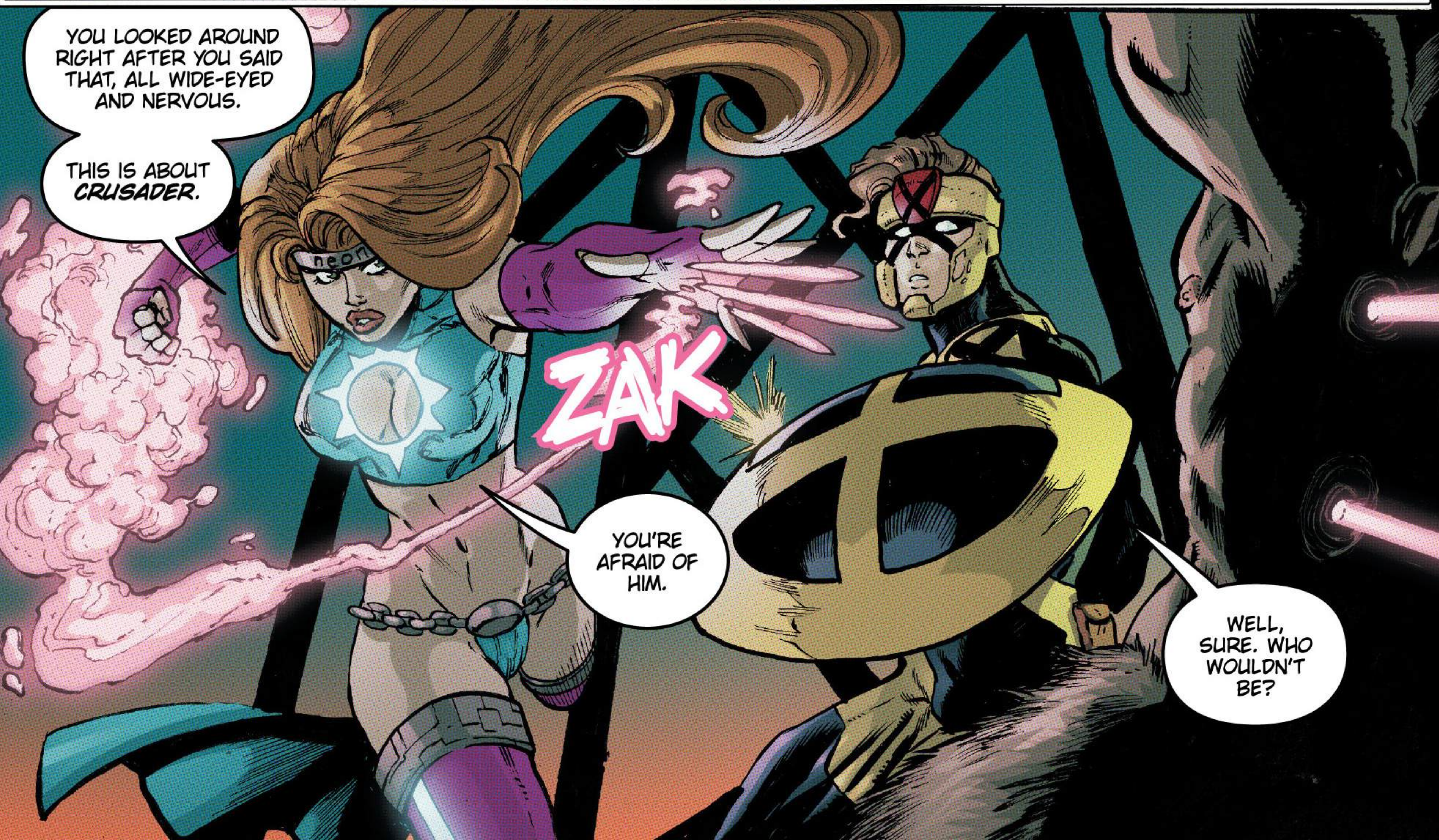
ZAK

BESIDES, THIS SUIT ALWAYS GIVES ME A SPLIT-SECOND LEAD, ESPECIALLY ON A CERTAIN KIND OF GUY.



WELL, YOU DO HAVE SOME PRACTICE WITH THOSE "CERTAIN KIND OF GUYS."

HRRRAH!



YOU LOOKED AROUND RIGHT AFTER YOU SAID THAT, ALL WIDE-EYED AND NERVOUS.

THIS IS ABOUT CRUSADER.

ZAK

YOU'RE AFRAID OF HIM.

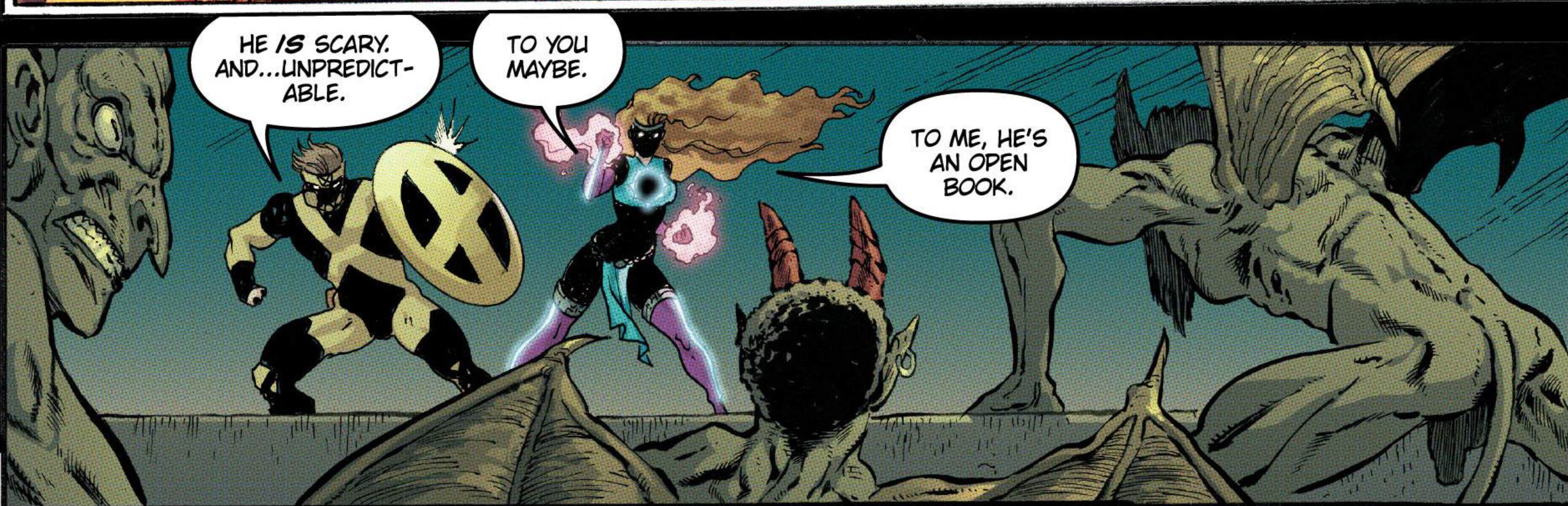
WELL, SURE. WHO WOULDN'T BE?



"THE GUY LITERALLY
WALKED INTO HELL
TO FIGHT SATAN."

"HE'S THE ONLY ONE
PIOUS ENOUGH TO
EVEN TAKE THE SEAT
BACK FROM THE *DEVIL*."

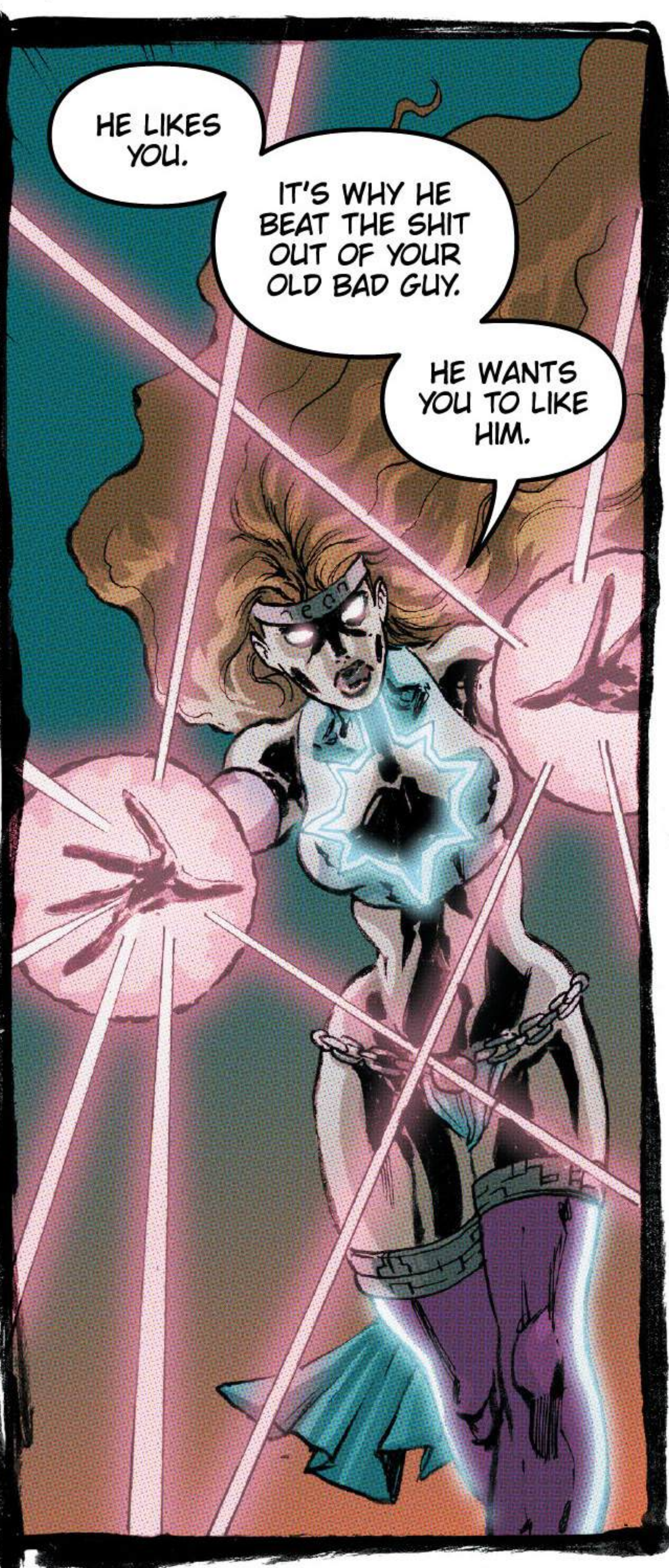
"LIKE, CAPITAL
THE, CAPITAL *D*."



HE *IS* SCARY.
AND...UNPREDICT-
ABLE.

TO YOU
MAYBE.

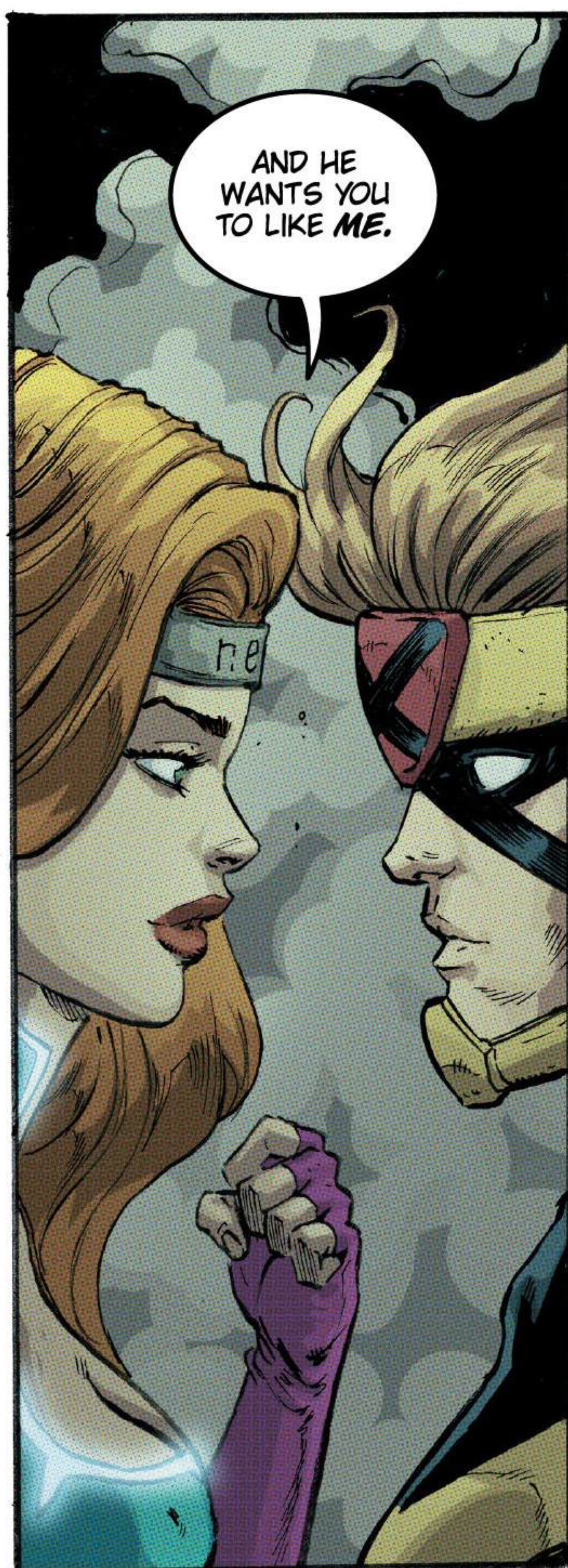
TO ME, HE'S
AN OPEN
BOOK.



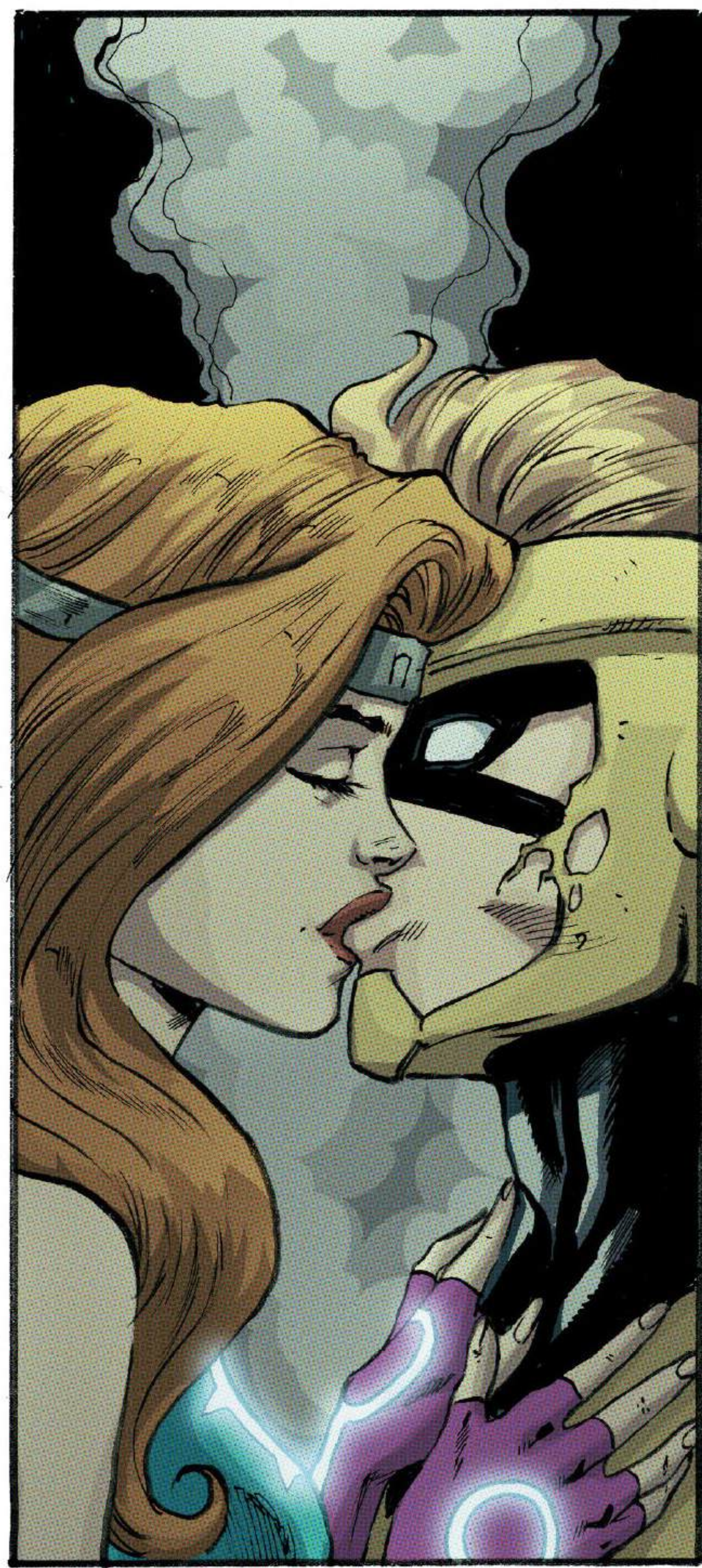
HE LIKES
YOU.

IT'S WHY HE
BEAT THE SHIT
OUT OF YOUR
OLD BAD GUY.

HE WANTS
YOU TO LIKE
HIM.



AND HE
WANTS YOU
TO LIKE *ME*.





ERICA...
YOU'RE
MARRIED.

GOD IS OFF
HIS SEAT, AND
HELL IS ON
THE EARTH,
JACK.

IT'S A LITTLE
LATE TO CARE
ABOUT THE
RULES.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Stacy '99
+fs





Chapter 4





RESTRICTED
AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
OF FARMINGTON

WARNING
ELECTRIFIED
SECURITY FENCE

...

THIS PLACE
HAS BEEN
CLOSED SINCE
THE 80s.

POLICE CHIEF
MENTIONED HE'D
SEEN LIGHTS IN
THE SKY HERE.

FRIGHTSIDE
SAID HODAG
WAS OBSESSED
WITH IT...

THOUGHT IT
WAS SOME
KIND OF
SECRET
VILLAIN LAIR
OR...

WHEN I WAS A
TEENAGER, KIDS
WOULD COME HERE
TO SHOOT GUNS
AND DO DRUGS.

DEALERS
CAME HERE
TOO.

I BUSTED
THEM ALL AS
CROSSJACK.

...QUALITY OF
COPS IN THIS
TOWN HAS GONE
WAY DOWN SINCE
I LEFT.

SO, WHAT IF
THE DEALERS
ARE BACK?

WHAT IF
HODAG SAW
SOMETHING HE
SHOULDN'T?

WHAT IF HE
INTERRUPTED
A "SPECIAL
DELIVERY?"

YOU BEEN
TALKING TO
THAT DOG
LONG?

TSSS



WHAT?!

NO...

MAYBE YOU MISSED IT.

STACY WOHL,
FORMERLY KNOWN
AS **FRIGHTSIDE**,
FOUND DROWNED
IN HER HOTEL
ROOM.

TIME OF
DEATH ABOUT
TEN AM THIS
MORNING.

AND...

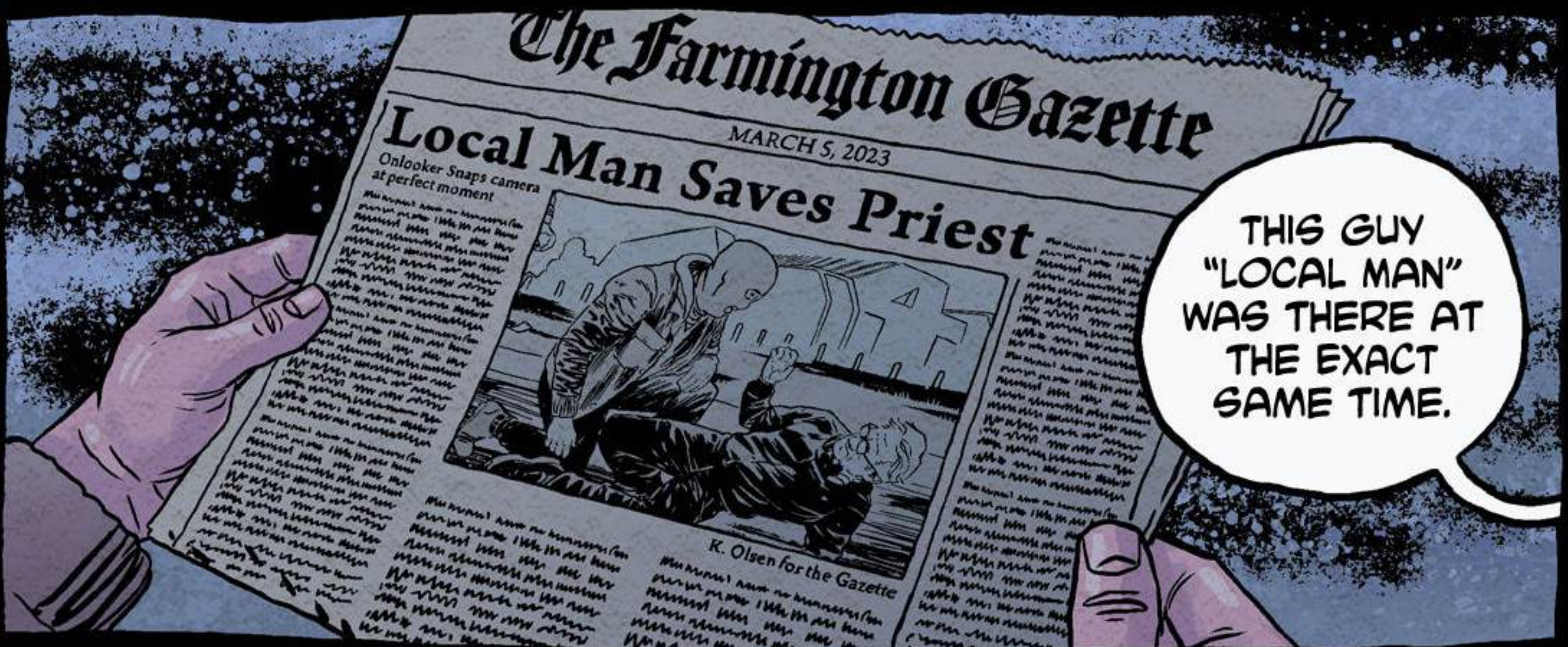
TOSS



STREETCATCH



WEIRD,
RIGHT?



The Farmington Gazette
MARCH 5, 2023
Local Man Saves Priest

THIS GUY
"LOCAL MAN"
WAS THERE AT
THE EXACT
SAME TIME.



SO,
ANOTHER
FORMER
SUPERVILLAIN
IS DEAD...

AND HERE YOU
ARE WITHOUT MY
WIFE TO VOUCH
FOR YOU THIS
TIME.



THIS
ISN'T ME.

ARE YOU
FUCKING
WITH ME?

A HUNTING
MASK ISN'T--

YOU'RE WEARING
THE SAME COAT
RIGHT NOW!

YOU
CAN'T--

GAH!



DID YOU JUST SHOOT ME WITH A FUCKING RUBBER BAND!?

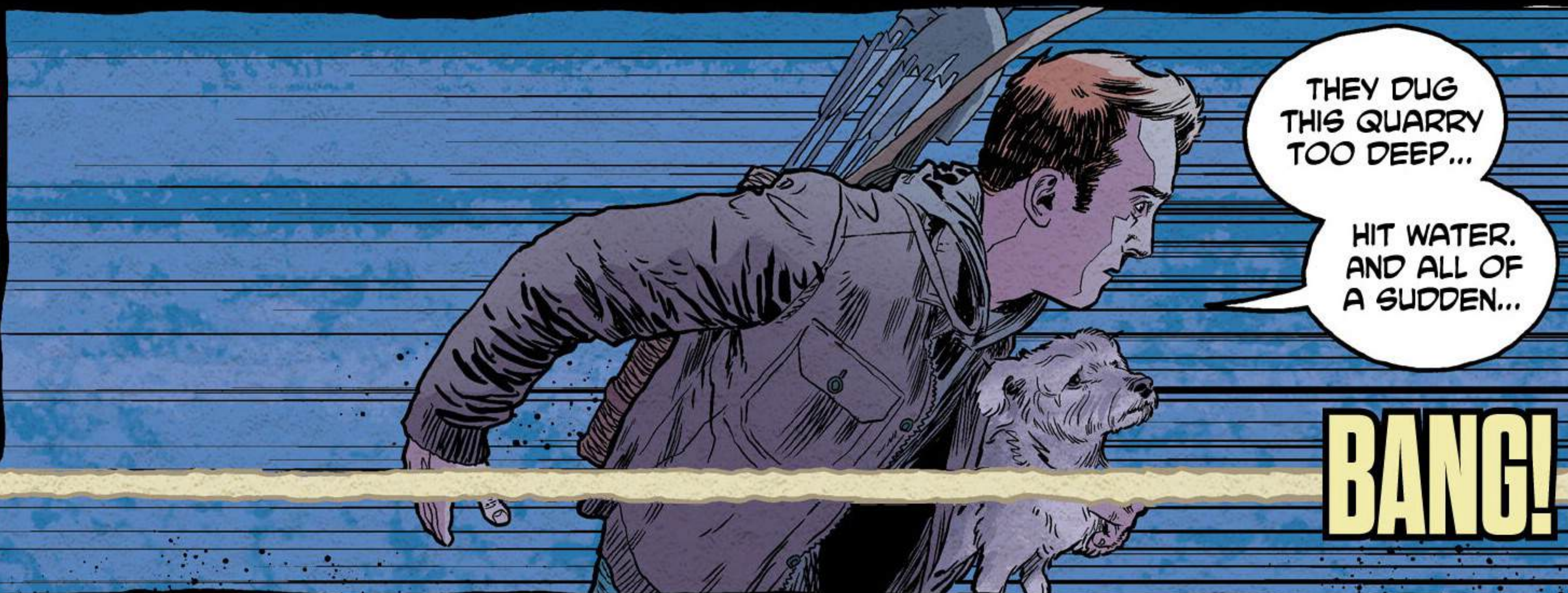


I'M CROSSJACK, BITCH!

I DON'T MISS.

MOTHER-FUCKER--

STOP, OR I'LL SHOOT!



THEY DUG THIS QUARRY TOO DEEP...

HIT WATER. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...

BANG!



...END OF THE LINE.

INGA SAID I COULD SEE THE BEST WAY TO USE ANYTHING.

A NUNCHUCK. A TOWN. MAYBE EVEN A FLOODED QUARRY.

PEPPER, DO YOU TRUST ME?



GOOD ENOUGH.

DON'T GO ANOTHER STEP, XAVER!

I'VE GOT A KEY, YOU IDIOT!

JUST STOP OR--





GODDAMMIT,
YOU DUMB-
ASS!

THAT HOLE IS
TWENTY FEET DEEP
AND FULL OF GHOST
CURRENTS AND
RUSTY METAL!



COME
ON, MAN.
COME UP!

INGA'LL NEVER
LET ME LIVE IT
DOWN IF I DROWN
HER STUPID EX!

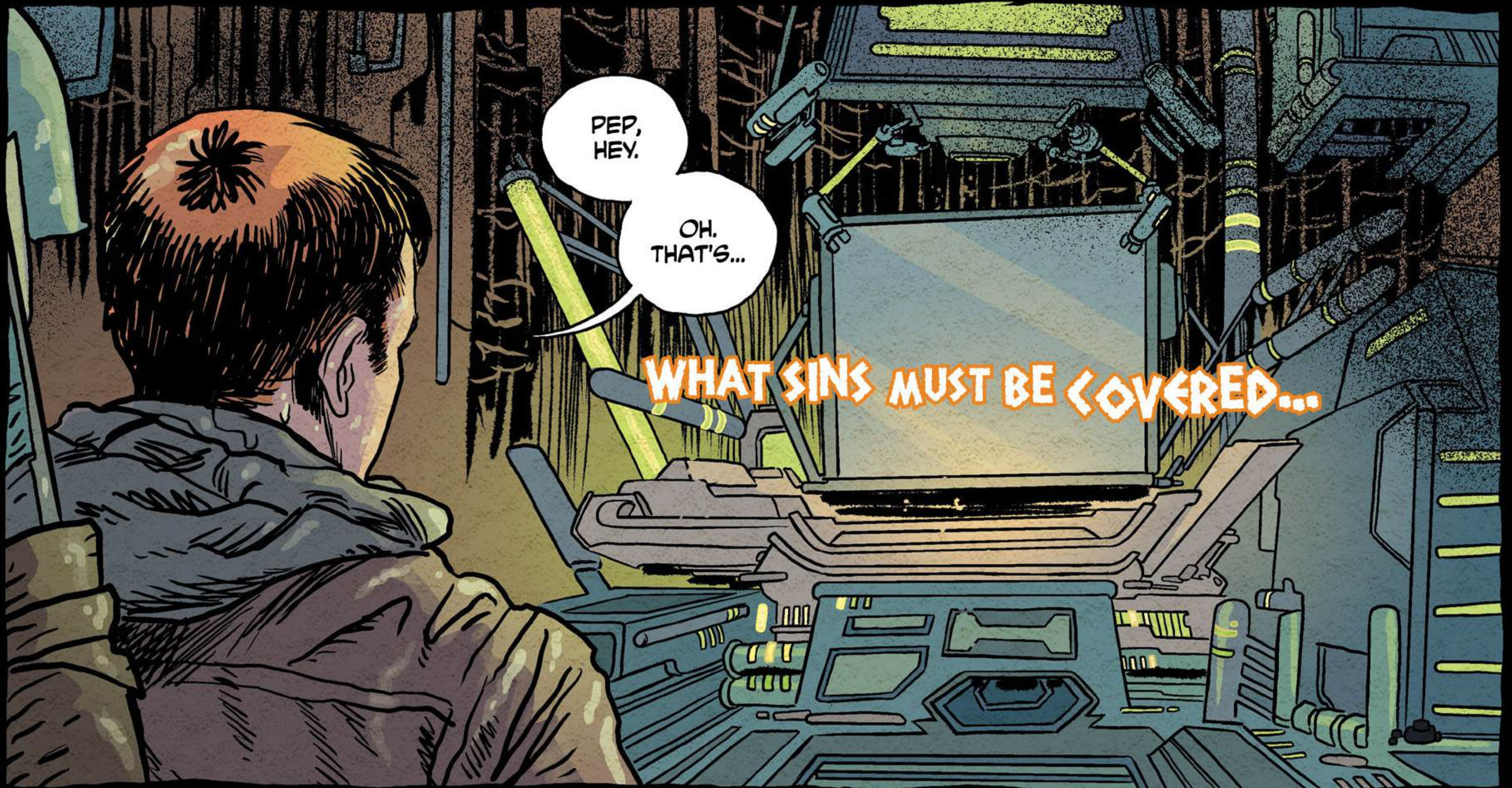
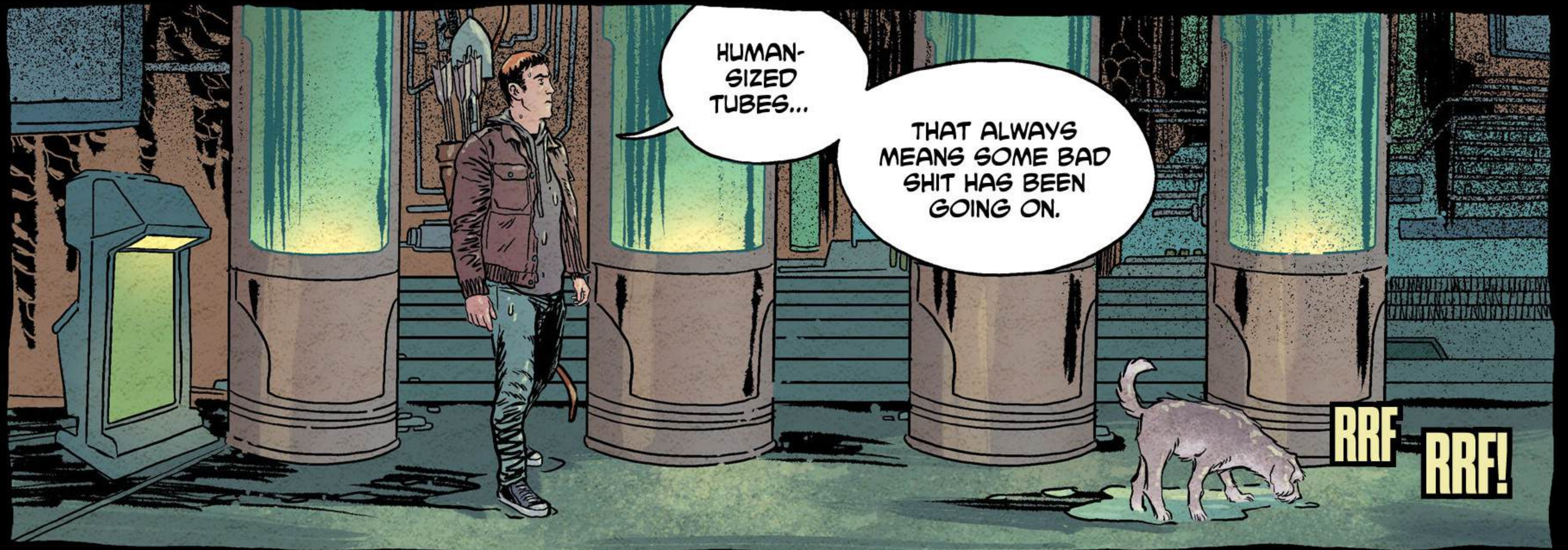


--THE
HELL?



THAT ISN'T
FIREWORKS.







OH. FUCK
ME.

WHAT BLOOD
WILL BE SPILT
IN OFFERING

THE
MERCY
SEAT.

JESUS.

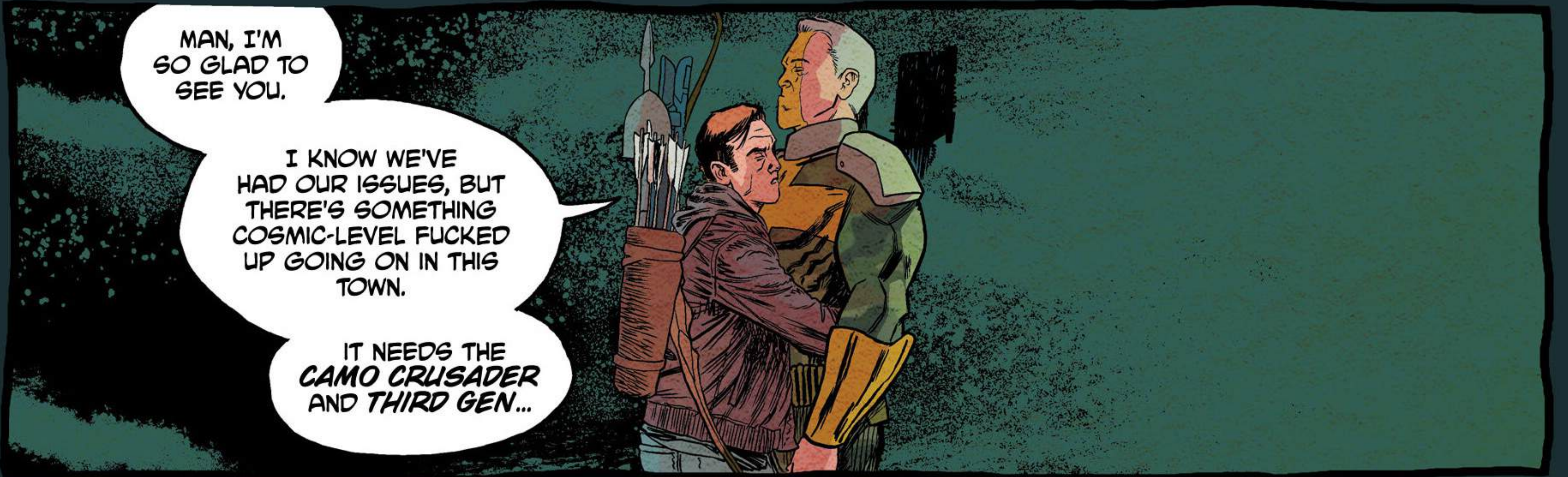
THAT'S THE LITERAL
LID THAT CONTAINED
ALL THE WISDOM AND
POWER OF GOD.

ONLY THE MOST
DEVOUT CAN EVEN
TOUCH IT. I--

"LOCAL MAN."



I THOUGHT THEY INFORMED YOU THAT YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY HERO ANYMORE.



MAN, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.

I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR ISSUES, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING COSMIC-LEVEL FUCKED UP GOING ON IN THIS TOWN.

IT NEEDS THE CAMO CRUSADER AND THIRD GEN...



WAIT...

YOU AREN'T WET.



HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?



GHK

I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D COME BACK HERE.

THOUGHT YOU'D END UP DOING CHEAP CARNIVAL TRICKS AT THE HALL OF HEROES LIKE THE OTHERS.

WAKOOM



BUT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE OVER THIS?

A DEAD CRIMINAL?

LHN!

TSHING

WHY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING?



CHOOM

HNF!

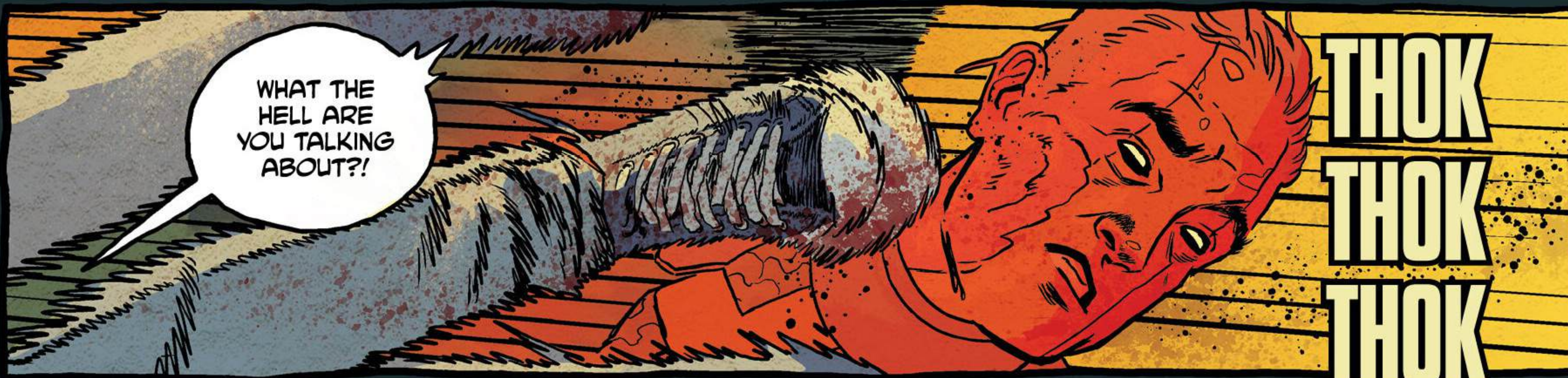
I CAN ASK AND ASK ALL I WANT, BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.



HNH?

PEPPER?

YOU HATE ME SO MUCH, YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE I DON'T LEAVE *ANYTHING* BEHIND ON EARTH.



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

THOK
THOK
THOK



YOU STOLE
MY FUTURE.

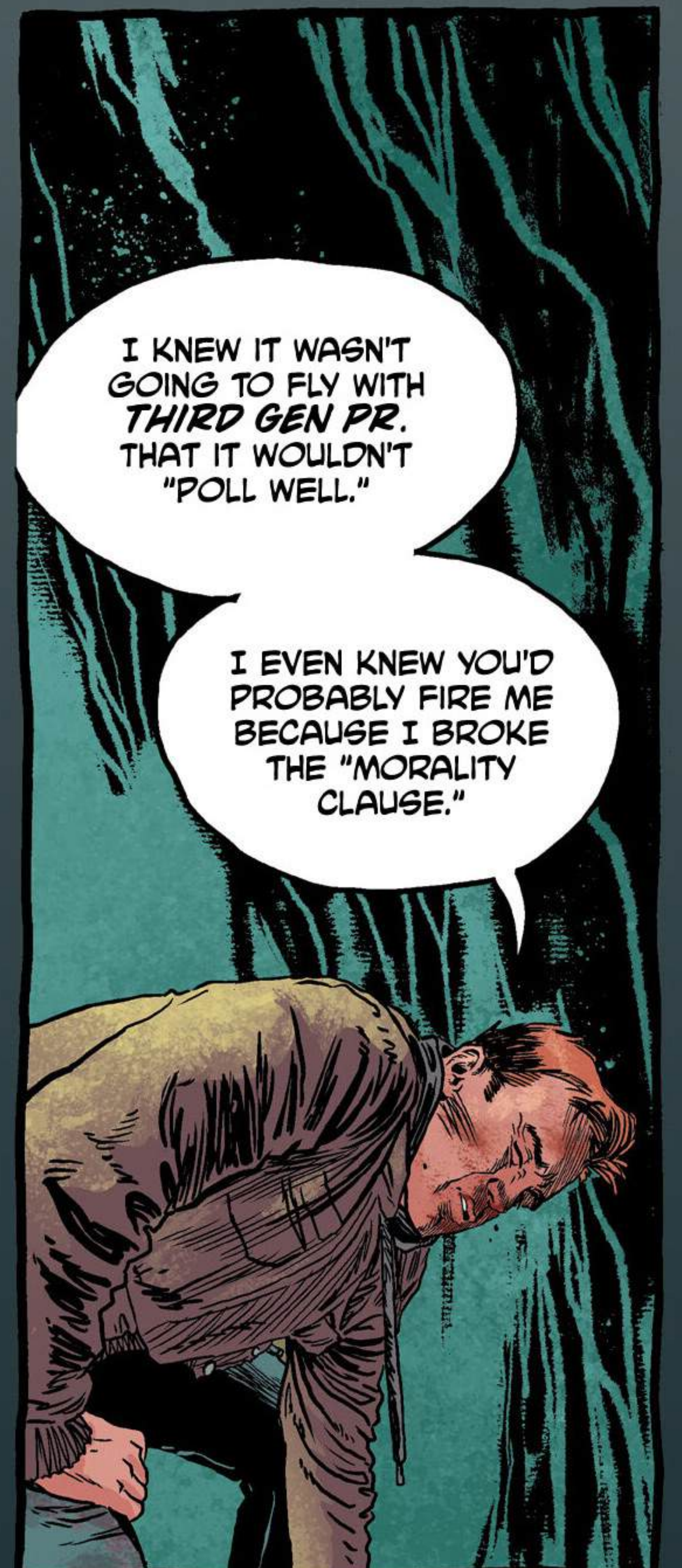


FNF

JESUS,
MAN!

LOOK,
I KNEW
WHAT I DID...
WHAT *WE*
DID--

THROOM



I KNEW IT WASN'T
GOING TO FLY WITH
THIRD GEN PR.
THAT IT WOULDN'T
"POLL WELL."

I EVEN KNEW YOU'D
PROBABLY FIRE ME
BECAUSE I BROKE
THE "MORALITY
CLAUSE."



BUT, *NEON* IS
HER OWN WOMAN.
NOT YOURS. NOT
MINE. I'M SORRY.

IT WAS HER
CHOICE TO
MAKE, *MATT*.



LIAR.

I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING, JACK. FRIENDSHIP. A PLACE ON THIRD GEN.

I WELCOMED YOUR FRIENDS AS MY OWN.

THOK



I HURT YOUR ENEMIES AS IF THEY'D SLIGHTED ME.

AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU DIDN'T STAND FOR ME!

PSSST

HNF!



C'MON

C'MON

C'MON

ERICA WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU!

YOU NEVER MISS, RIGHT?!



SHE DID THINGS FOR YOU SHE NEVER DID FOR ME!

PWOM



NO!

NO SHIELDS!

THIRD GEN OWNS CROSS-JACK!

NOW YOU HAVE TO BE PUNISHED, JACK.

BECAUSE YOU ROBBED ME OF THE ONE THING THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME HAPPINESS IN LIFE.



A CHILD FROM MY WIFE'S WOMB.

YOU STOLE MY SON, JACK!

KRAKOOM

NOW ALL OF THIS... *THIS INVESTMENT.*

THIS FINAL CHANCE TO PLANT SEEDS FOR TOMORROW. *IMMORTALITY.*

I HAVE NO ONE TO SHARE IT WITH.

"THE HEART OF MAN PLANS ITS WAY, BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES HIS STEPS."



WISDOM ONCE CONTAINED BENEATH THAT LID.



YOU...

YOU STOLE THE MERCY SEAT...

I WOULD HAVE SHARED MY SON WITH YOU, YOU KNOW.

I WOULD HAVE SHARED ALL MY CHILDREN WITH YOU.



BUT MY STEPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!



CAMO
CRUSADER!

TURN
AROUND
SLOWLY!

YOU'RE UNDER
ARREST FOR
ASSAULT AND
TRESPASSING!

TRESPASS.



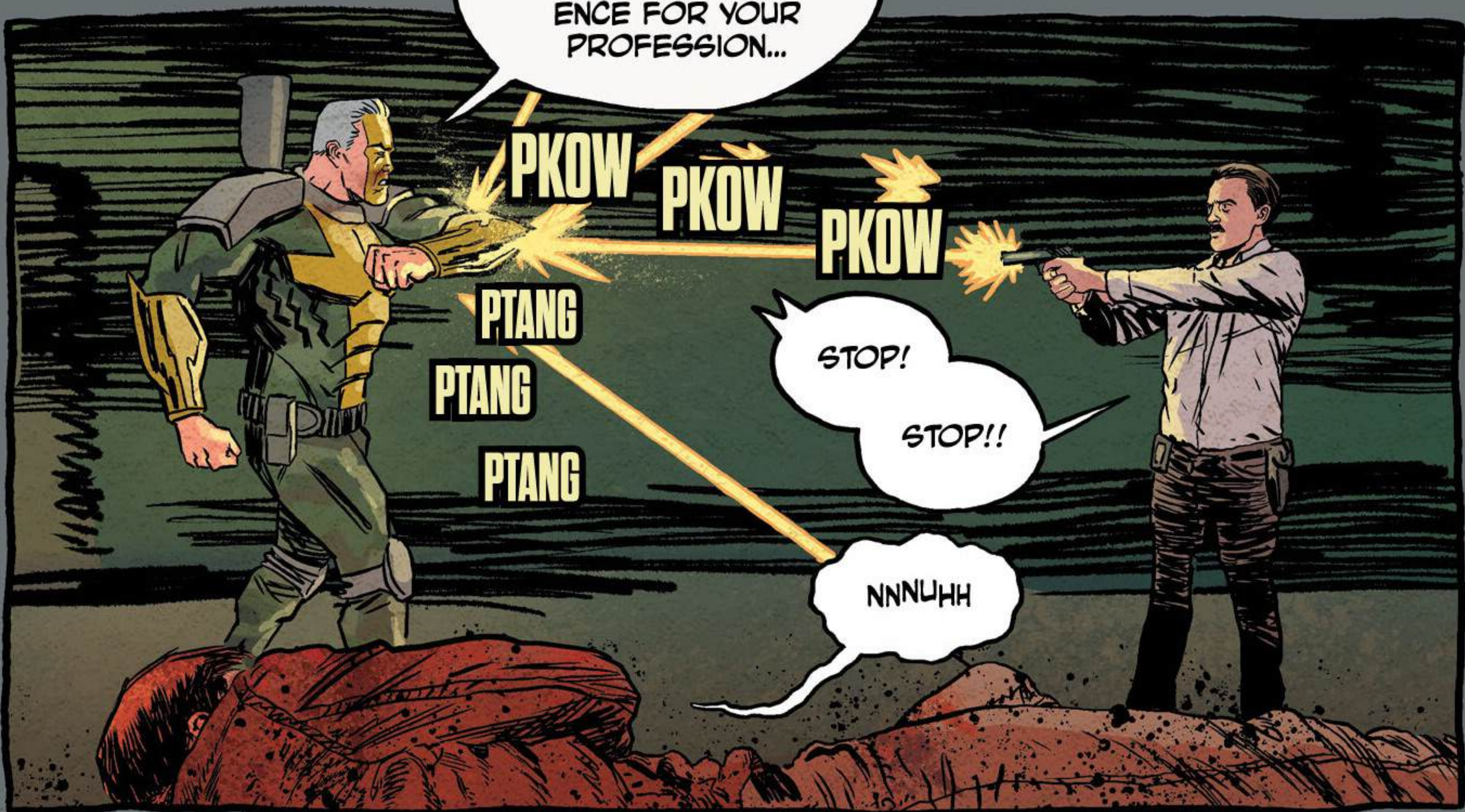
THE ONLY
TRESPASSES
HERE ARE THOSE
DONE AGAINST
ME BY A MAN I
CALLED FRIEND.

AND NOW I
HAVE TO ADD
ANOTHER
ONE, JACK.



YOU'VE MADE ME
KILL AN OFFICER
OF THE LAW.

PLEASE KNOW THAT
I HAVE NOTHING BUT
RESPECT AND REVER-
ENCE FOR YOUR
PROFESSION...



PKOW

PKOW

PKOW

PTANG

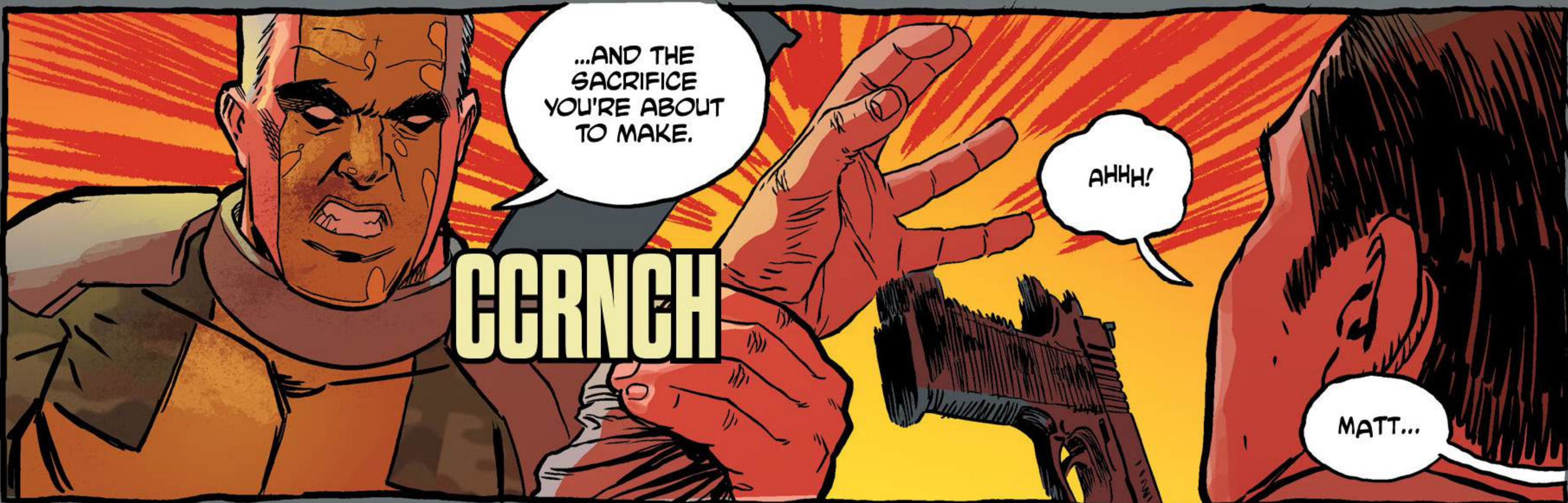
PTANG

PTANG

STOP!

STOP!!

NNNUHH



...AND THE
SACRIFICE
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO MAKE.

CCRNCH

AHHH!

MATT...



LET HIM GO.

NOW.



AH. THE BOW AND ARROW.

TOOL OF JEHOASH, KING OF ISRAEL.

HNNH.



AND THE ONE WEAPON YOU NEVER MASTERED.

I'M TELLING YOU...



GO AHEAD.

LET HER RIP, SON.

YOU'LL PROBABLY HIT THE COP.

PLEASE! DON'T--





I... I
GUESS YOU
SHOWED...

I WAS
AIMING FOR
HIS HAND.



HE TOOK THE
MERCY SEAT.
ONLY THE MOST
DEVOUT...

HE WAS GOING TO
USE IT TO MAKE
HIMSELF A...

A GOD OR
SOMETHING.

WHATEVER THAT
THING DOES WHEN
YOU HOOK IT UP TO AN
"APHEK ENGINE."



HODAG FOUND OUT
ABOUT IT AND TRIED
TO STEAL IT, TO GET
BACK AT ME.

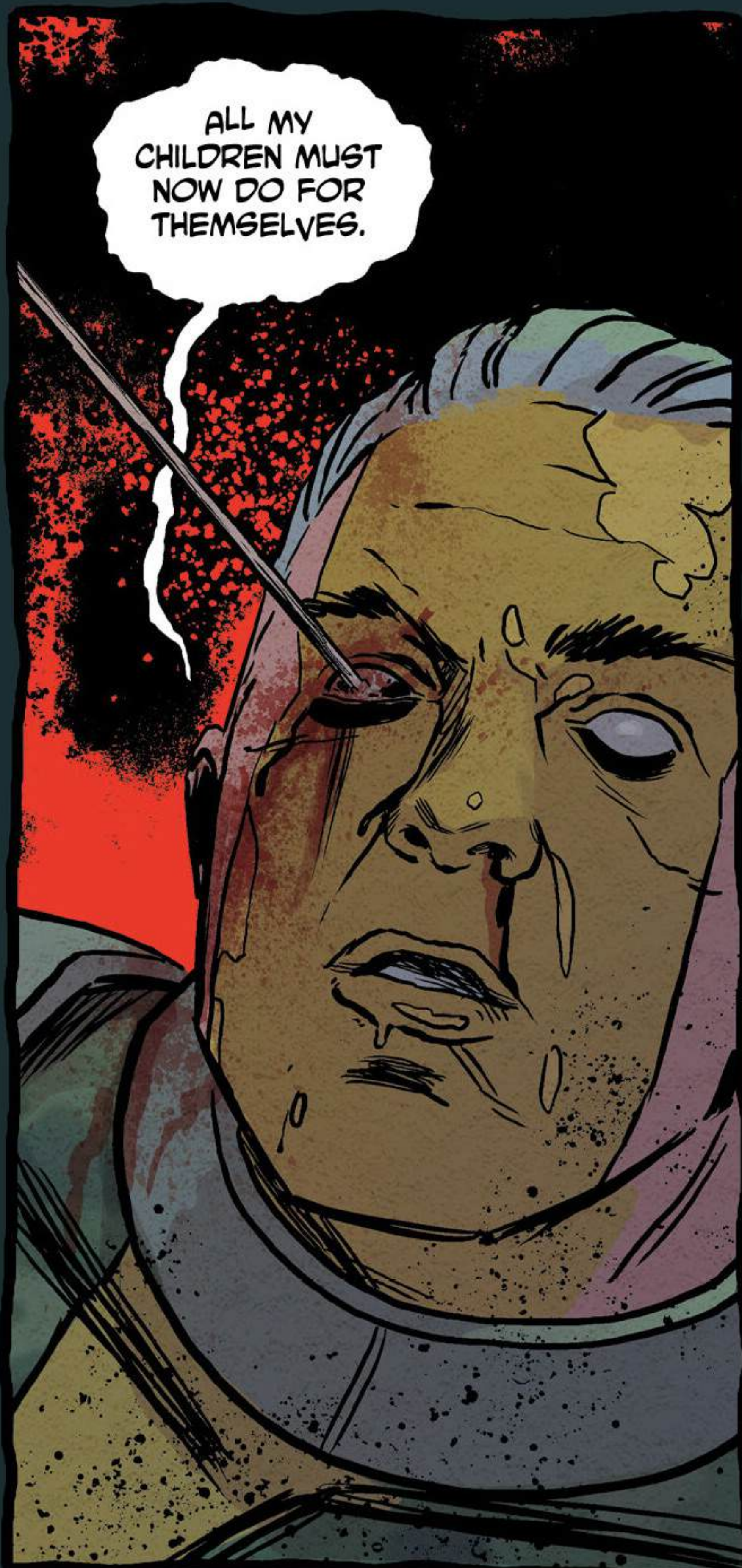
FRIGHTSIDE
KNEW WHERE HODAG
HAD BEEN BEFORE
HE DIED.

YOU KILLED
THEM BOTH.



NO.

I LEARNED MY
LESSON, JACK.
ALL OF MY...



ALL MY
CHILDREN MUST
NOW DO FOR
THEMSELVES.





SLRP SLRP SLRP

HNNH.

SLRP
SLRP
SLRP

OW.
AHH.

STOP,
PEP.

STOP.

SLRP SLRP SLRP

AFTER YOU
PASSED OUT,
I FOUND HIM IN
ONE OF THOSE
TUBES.

HE MUST'VE FIGURED HE
WAS SAFER IN THERE
THAN AROUND YOU TWO
S.P.B.S OR WHATEVER.

GUESS HE'S
SMARTER
THAN I AM.

WHERE
ARE WE?

YOU DON'T
RECOGNIZE IT?

WELCOME TO
THE 4TH GEN
TRAINING
FACILITY.

WHEN THE CITY BOUGHT IT
BACK FROM THIRD GEN, MOST
OF IT GOT TURNED INTO A
COMMUNITY CENTER.

BUT SOME OF IT WAS
GIVEN TO THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT.

LIKE THIS
LITTLE BLACK SITE
YOU'RE IN NOW.



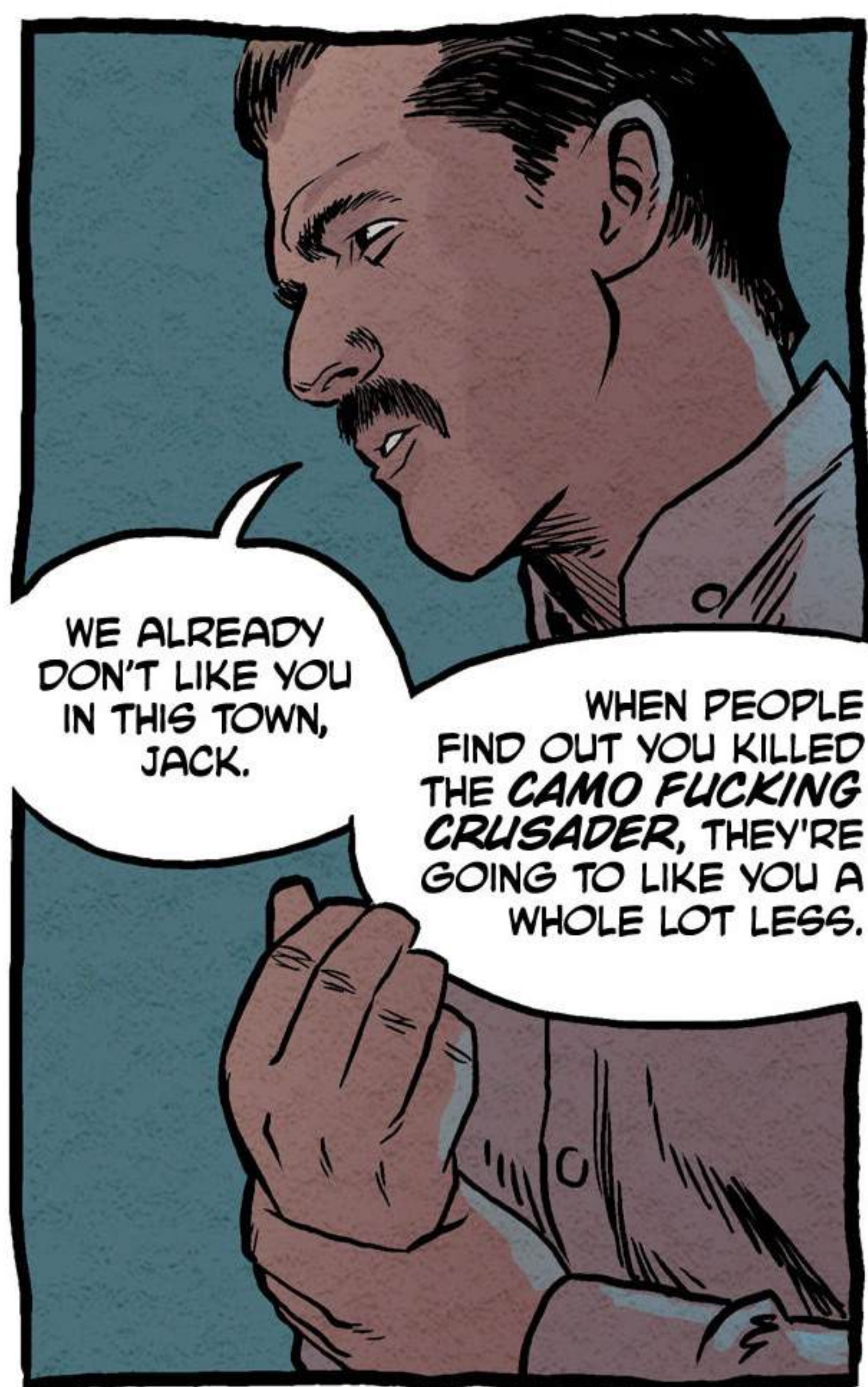


BLACK SITE?

NOT ON ANY BLUEPRINTS, NO WINDOWS, TOTALLY SECURE.

DOESN'T GET USED MUCH, BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.

WHAT? WHY?



WE ALREADY DON'T LIKE YOU IN THIS TOWN, JACK.

WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT YOU KILLED THE CAMO FUCKING CRUSADER, THEY'RE GOING TO LIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT LESS.



THEN WHY DO THEY HAVE TO KNOW?

YOU'RE A SUPERHERO. I'M A COP.

WE HAVE RULES.

I ALREADY CALLED IT IN.



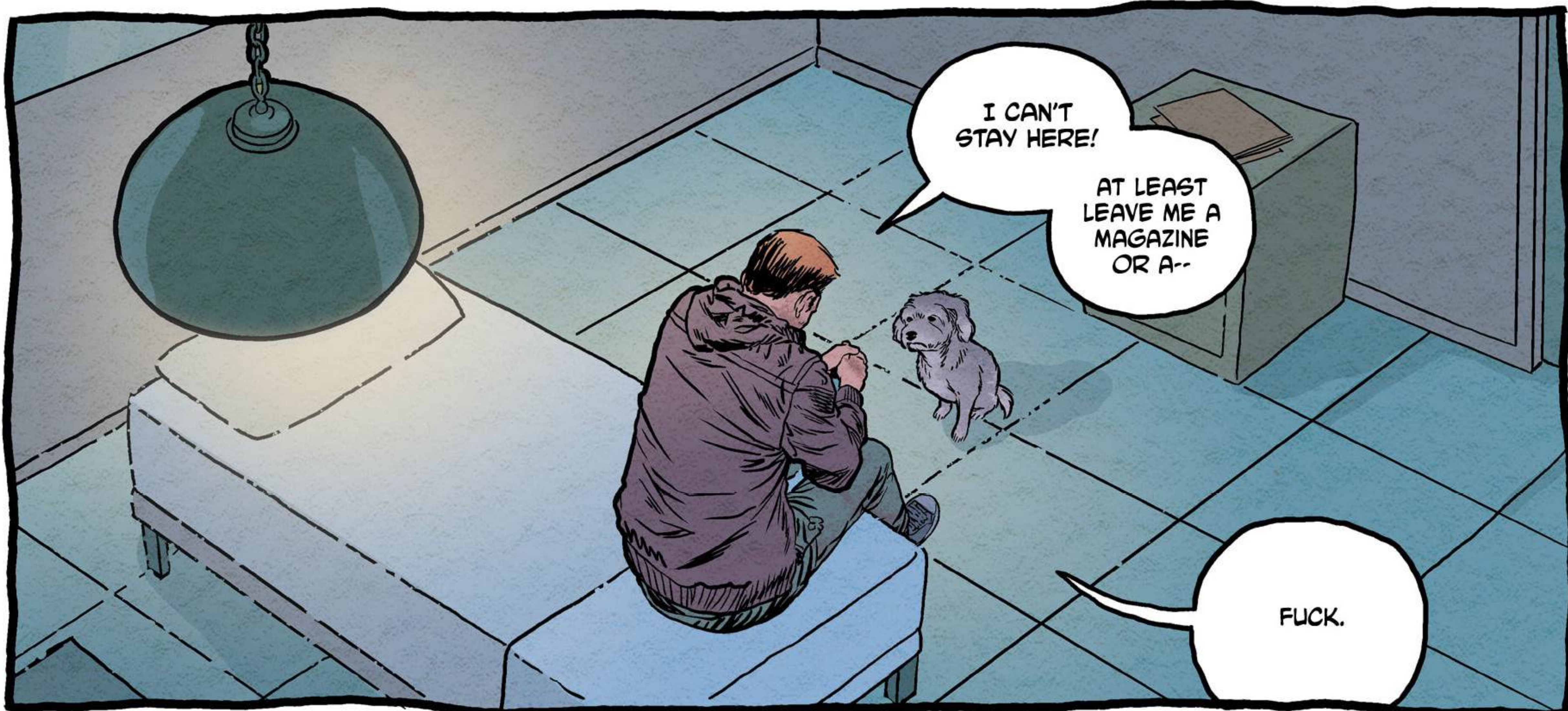
JUST CHILL, DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF.

I'LL GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS, EXPLAIN THAT YOU DID WHAT YOU DID TO SAVE A COP, AND WE'LL SORT IT OUT FROM THERE.

AW MAN. WAIT.

DON'T--

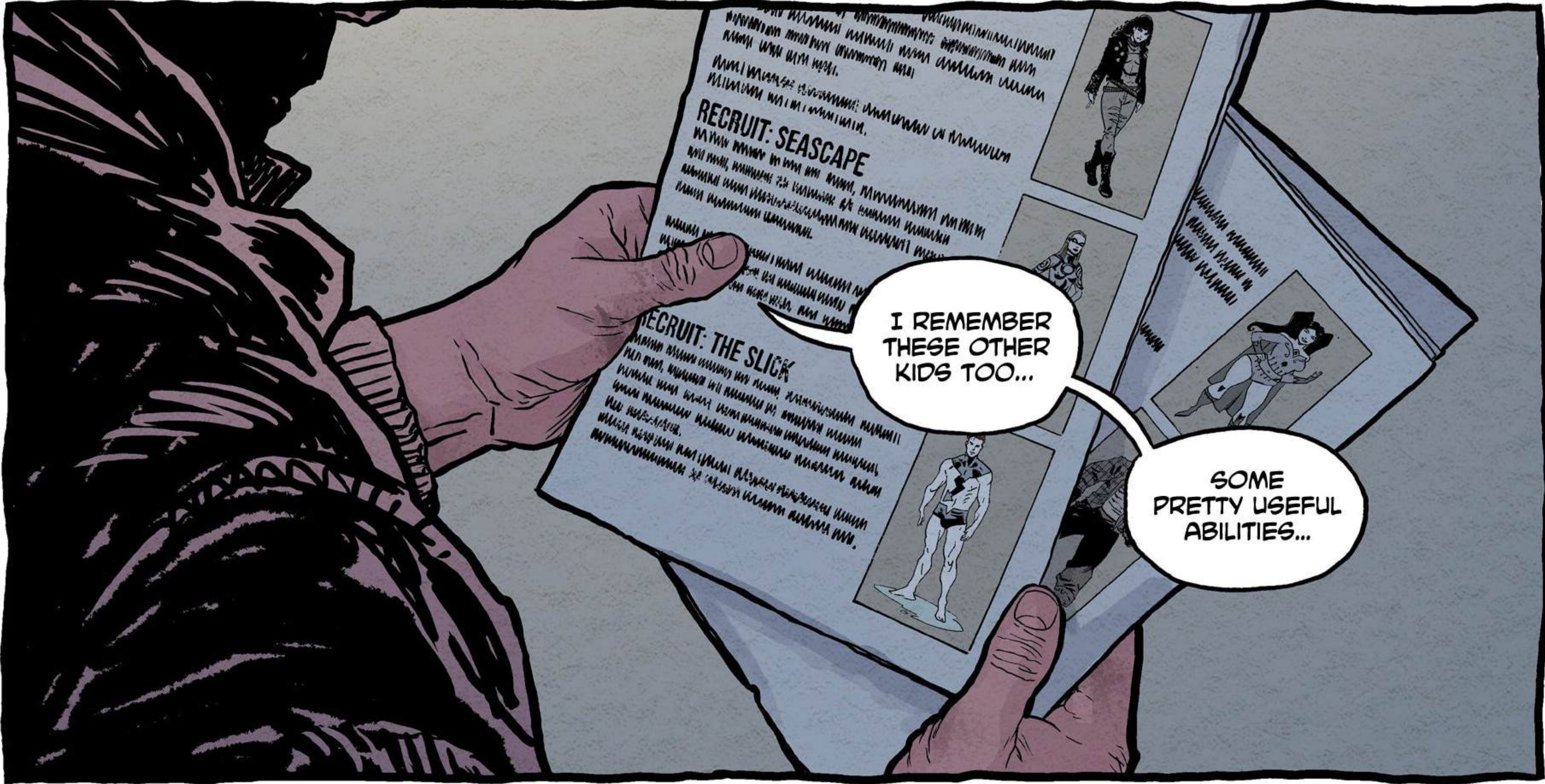
AHNGH!



I CAN'T STAY HERE!

AT LEAST LEAVE ME A MAGAZINE OR A--

FUCK.





"THE APHEK ENGINE COULD STEAL SUPERPOWERS AND GIVE THEM TO OTHER PEOPLE."

HEY.



GHK!

SPECIAL DELIVERY.

"IT COULD MAKE AN 'INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW.'"



HE'S IN THERE, AIN'T HE?

NNNH.

"HOLY SHIT, PEP. I THINK..."

"I THINK I JUST SAVED THE DAY."



I GOT SOMETHIN' FOR HIM TOO.

VMMMMMM



NORTH
AMERICAN
HUNTING
CLUB
MEMBER

NOV

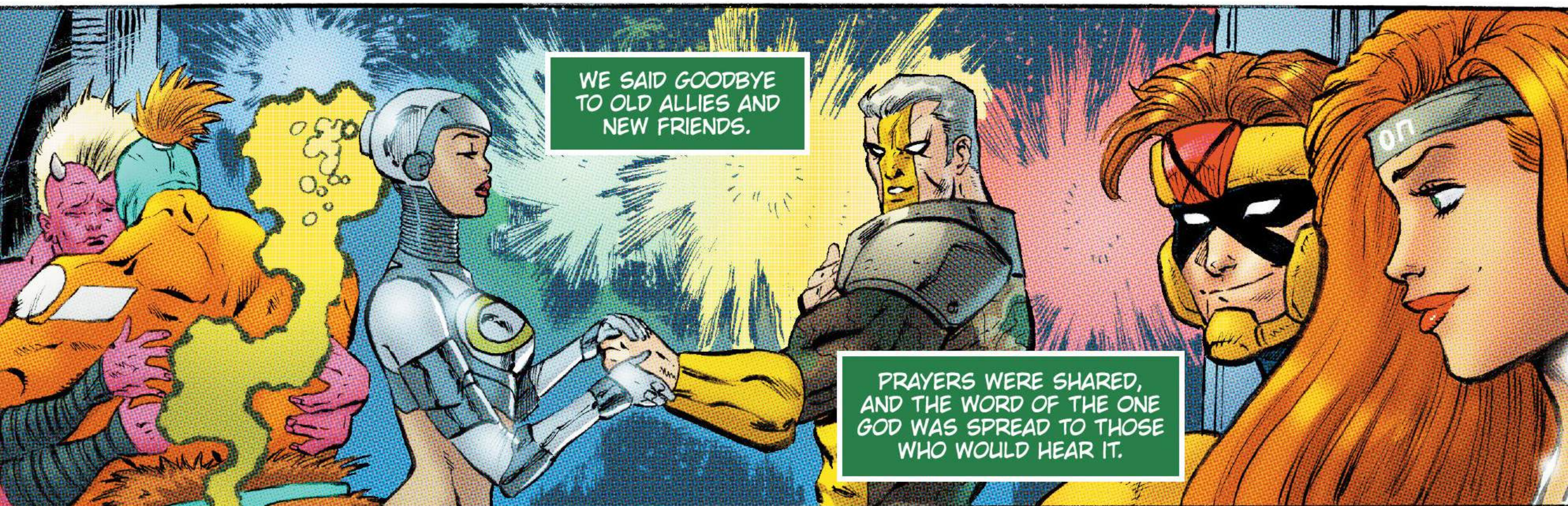


FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER:

THE WAR ON
KAOS ENDED.

THIRD GEN AND THE STAR
PACT WERE TRIUMPHANT.

THE HISHIN PEOPLE WERE
GIVEN THEIR PLANET BACK.



WE SAID GOODBYE
TO OLD ALLIES AND
NEW FRIENDS.

PRAYERS WERE SHARED,
AND THE WORD OF THE ONE
GOD WAS SPREAD TO THOSE
WHO WOULD HEAR IT.

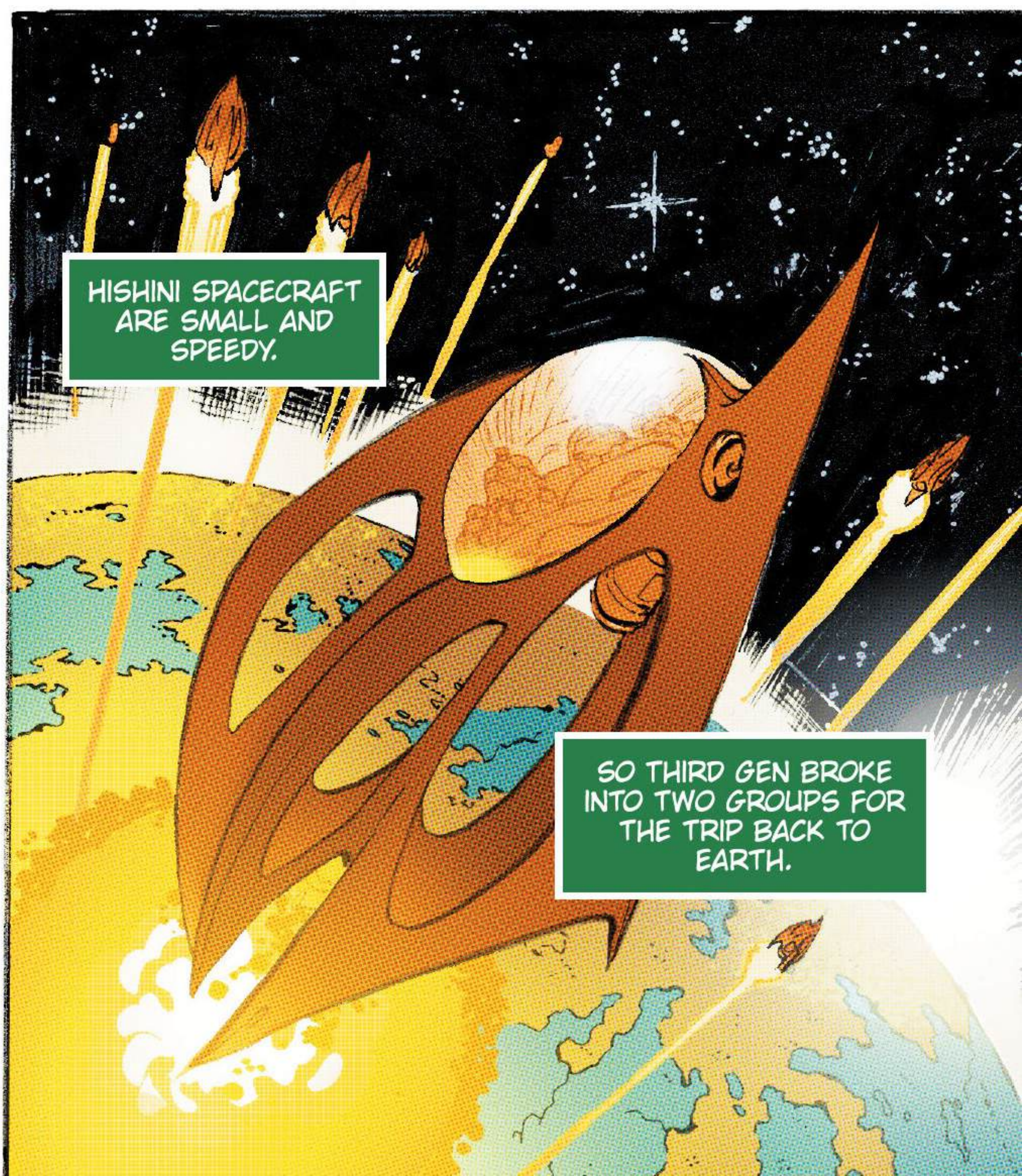


HM. *INFINTEASE*
THINKS THIS IS
SUCH A STRANGE
STORY.

YOUR GOD
IMPREGNATED
THE MAN
JOSEPH'S
WIFE?

WHAT IS THE
LESSON OF THIS,
CAMOUFLAGE
CRUCIBLE?

MAYBE THE STORY ISN'T
MEANT FOR INTERSTELLAR
SEX ANDROIDS.



HISHINI SPACECRAFT
ARE SMALL AND
SPEEDY.

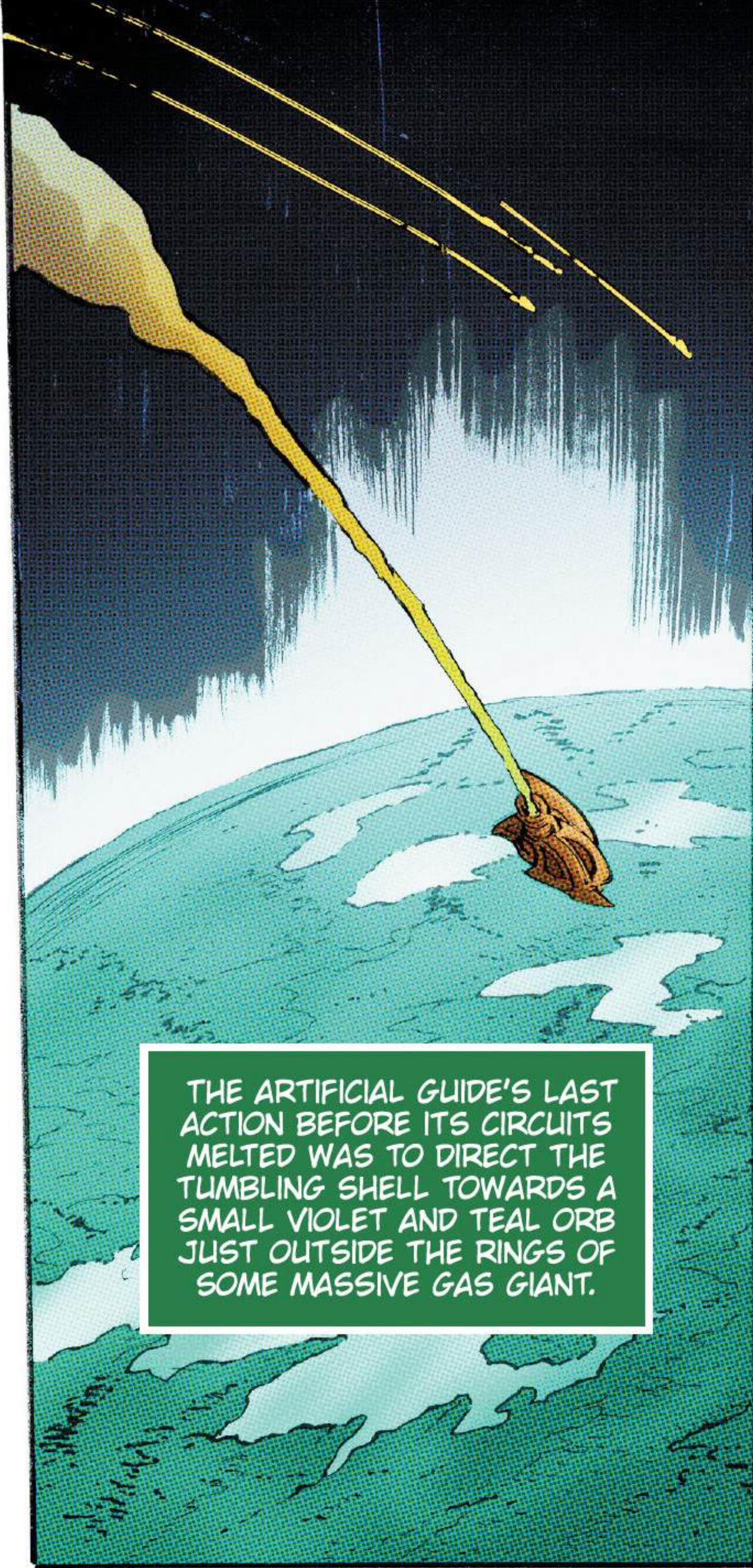
SO THIRD GEN BROKE
INTO TWO GROUPS FOR
THE TRIP BACK TO
EARTH.



PROBLEMS BEGAN SOON AFTER LAUNCH IN THE SHIP I SHARED WITH *CROSSJACK* AND *NEON*.

LIKELY, THERE WAS UNNOTICED DAMAGE TO THE SURGE-DRIVE AFTER THE SIEGE OF TISHAMADIN, BUT MY HISHINI IS WEAK.

ᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒ
ᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒᄒ ᄒᄒ



THE ARTIFICIAL GUIDE'S LAST ACTION BEFORE ITS CIRCUITS MELTED WAS TO DIRECT THE TUMBLING SHELL TOWARDS A SMALL VIOLET AND TEAL ORB JUST OUTSIDE THE RINGS OF SOME MASSIVE GAS GIANT.



NEON USED HER POWERS TO CLEAR ANY OBSTACLES IN OUR WAY TO ENSURE THE SOFTEST LANDING POSSIBLE.

GOD, AS EVER, REMINDS ME THAT MY WIFE IS A REMARKABLE WOMAN.



WE NOW FOUND OURSELVES ON A SAVAGE, UNTAMED WORLD.

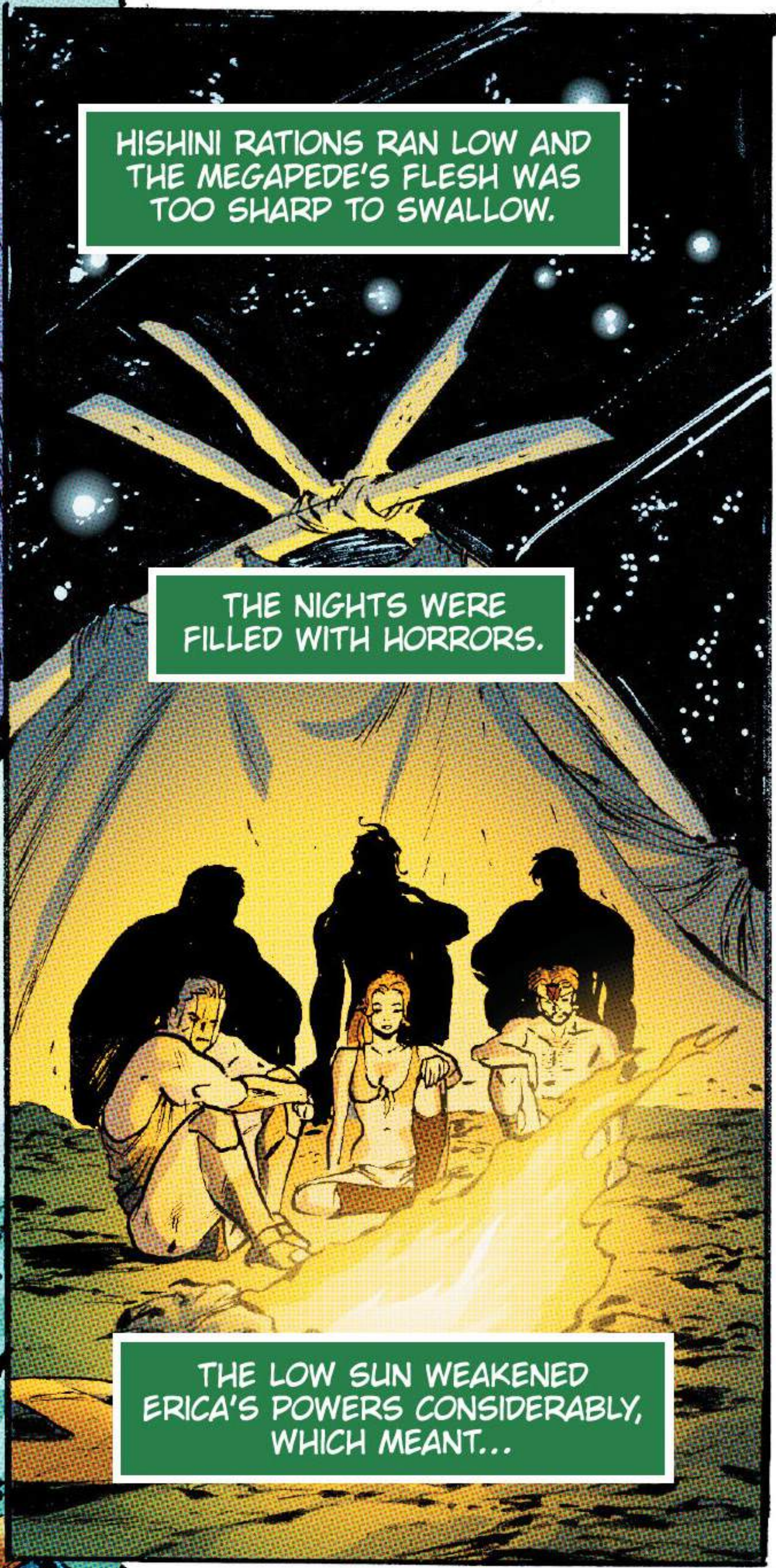
UNSURE IF OUR COMPATRIOTS WERE AWARE WE WERE NO LONGER BESIDE THEM, OR IF THEY WOULD EVER REACH EARTH THEMSELVES.



AND THEN THE SERPENTS ATTACKED.



THOSE FIRST WEEKS WERE THE HARDEST, BEFORE WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE PREDATORS' FEEDING HABITS, OR FOUND THAT THE MEMBRANES IN THEIR STOMACHS COULD BE USED TO FILTER WATER.



HISHINI RATIONS RAN LOW AND THE MEGAPEDE'S FLESH WAS TOO SHARP TO SWALLOW.

THE NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH HORRORS.

THE LOW SUN WEAKENED ERICA'S POWERS CONSIDERABLY, WHICH MEANT...



THE DAYS WERE NEARLY AS DARK.

IT'S FINE, CAMO. JUST GO.

CROSSJACK, YOU'RE WITH ME. LEAVE YOUR SHIELD.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?



TAKE YOUR WEAPONS. THY QUIVER AND THY BOW.

TODAY WE HUNT.

WOULDN'T SHOT RODS BE MORE EFFECTIVE?



SHOT RODS
ARE NEARLY
OUT OF JUICE.

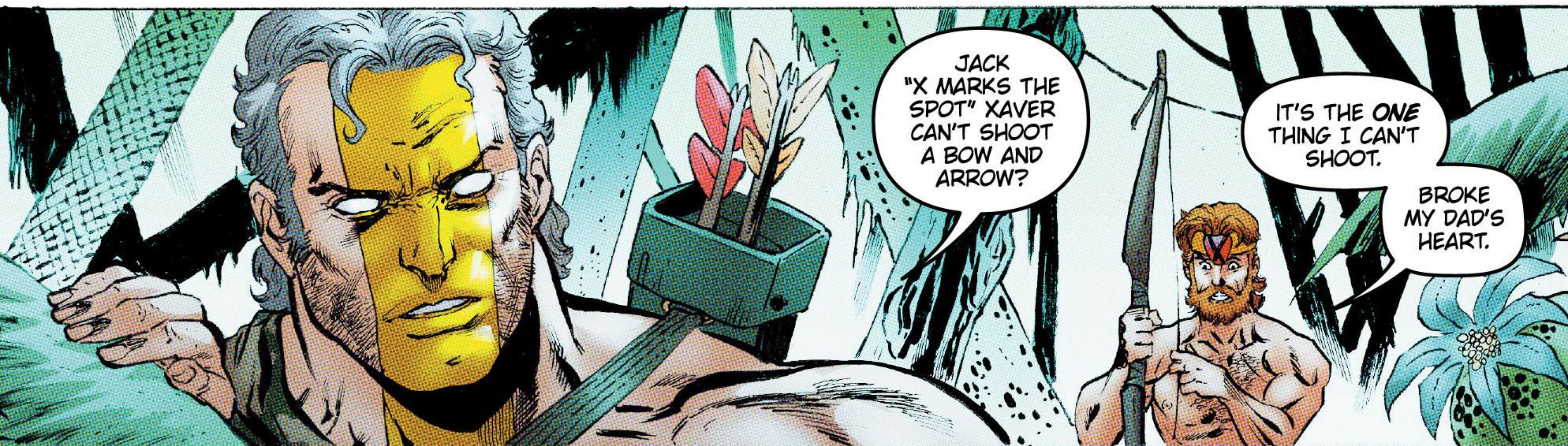
LUCKILY, WE HAVE
THE MARKSMAN
WITH US AND NOT
THE ONE WHO'S
HALF JET.

THE LORD HAS
A PURPOSE
FOR EACH OF
US.

HEY, AIR RAIDER
COULD AT LEAST
MAYBE FLY YOU
OFF THIS ROCK.

I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO BREAK
THIS TO YOU, SIR
BUT...

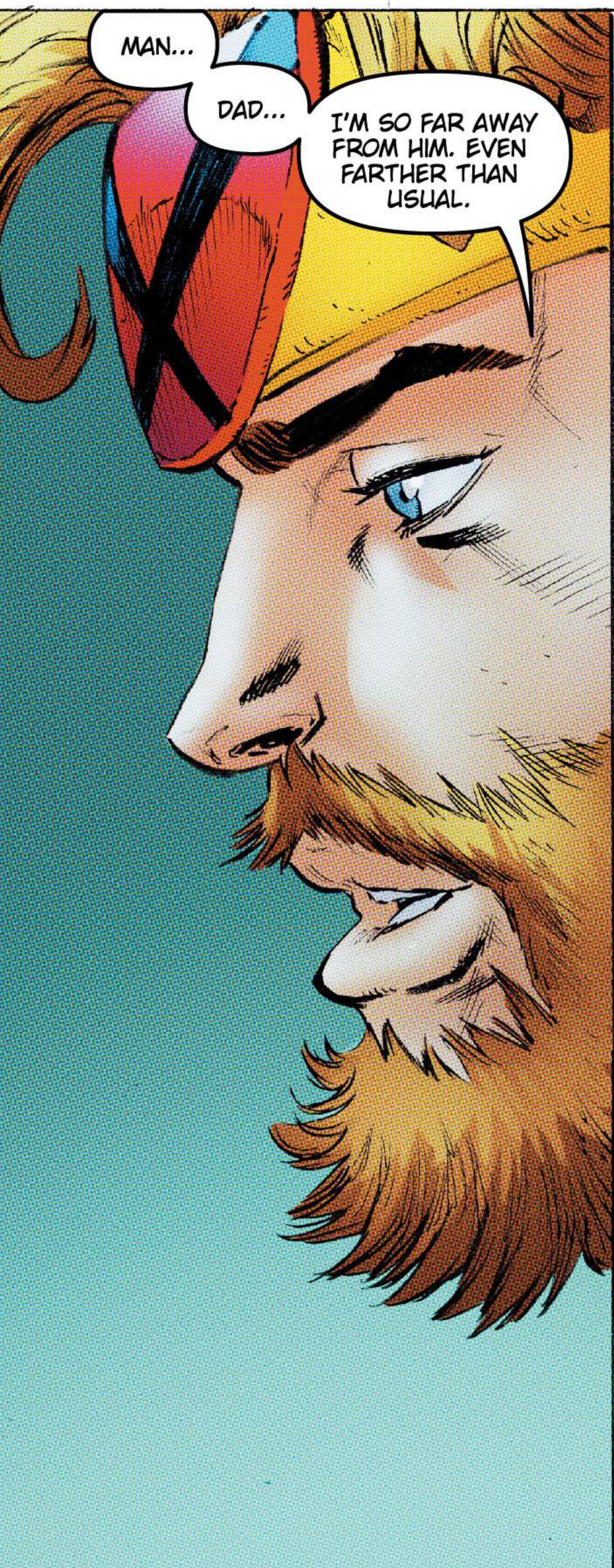
I CAN'T
SHOOT A BOW
FOR SHIT.



JACK
"X MARKS THE
SPOT" XAVER
CAN'T SHOOT
A BOW AND
ARROW?

IT'S THE ONE
THING I CAN'T
SHOOT.

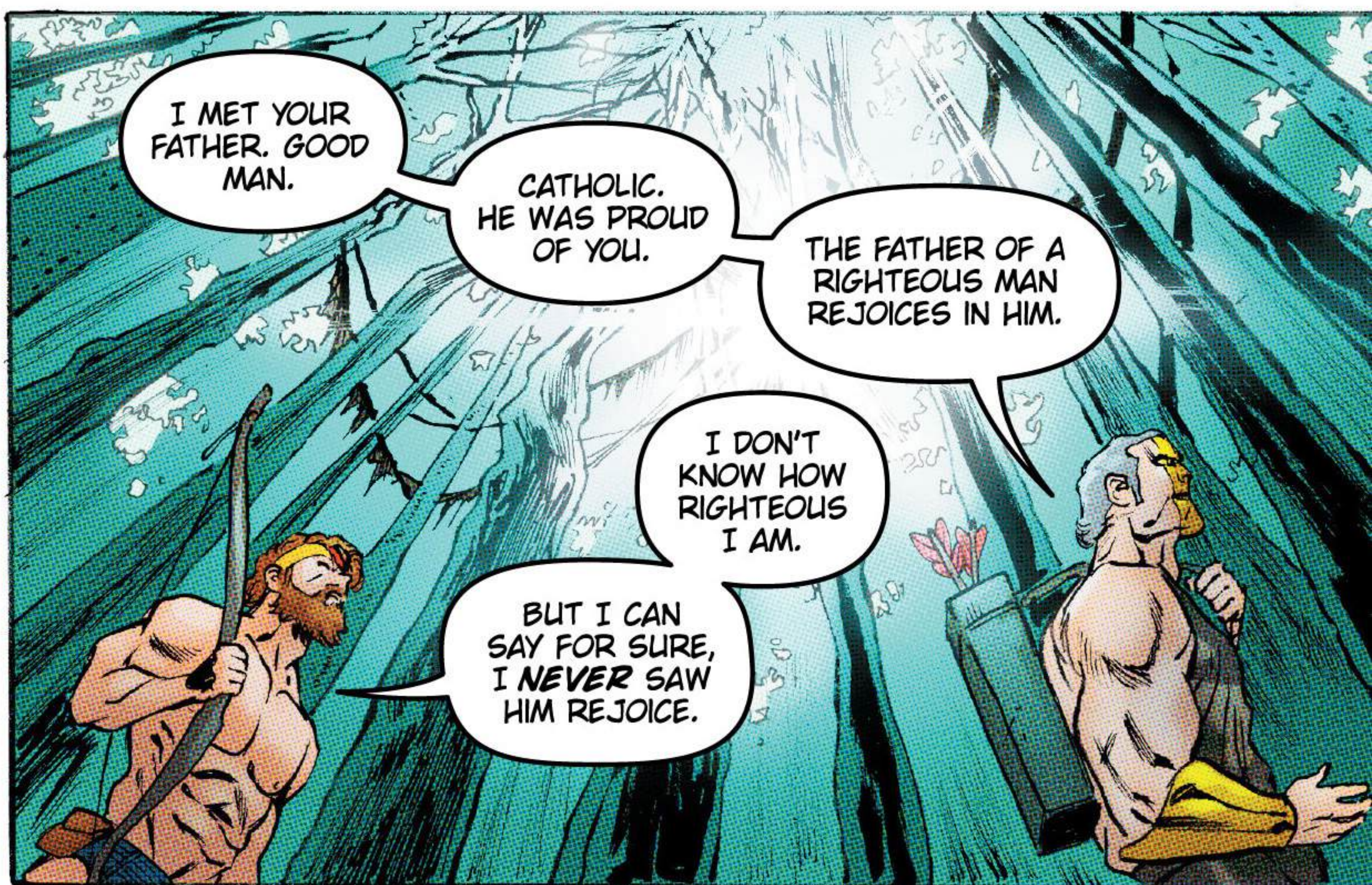
BROKE
MY DAD'S
HEART.



MAN...

DAD...

I'M SO FAR AWAY
FROM HIM. EVEN
FARTHER THAN
USUAL.



I MET YOUR
FATHER. GOOD
MAN.

CATHOLIC.
HE WAS PROUD
OF YOU.

THE FATHER OF A
RIGHTEOUS MAN
REJOICES IN HIM.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
RIGHTEOUS
I AM.

BUT I CAN
SAY FOR SURE,
I **NEVER** SAW
HIM REJOICE.



WE COULD
NEVER
CONNECT.

HE WOULD'VE
LOVED THIS
THOUGH.

HE LOVED
BOWHUNTING.

I... I JUST
WANTED TO
MAKE HIM
PROUD...



"I WAS THIRTEEN,
THE LAST TIME WE
WENT OUT."

"IT WAS LIKE THIS. I
MEAN, LESS MORTAL
DANGER. NOT AS MUCH
SLIME BUT..."



WE SAT IN THAT
FIELD ALL MORNING
IN COMPLETE
SILENCE.

NOT THAT HE WAS
SUPER CHATTY
OTHERWISE BUT
THIS WAS...

IT WAS
DIFFERENT.
WE JUST SAT
TOGETHER IN
LIKE...

QUIET
HARMONY.



MY DAD SAW THE
BUCK BEFORE I DID.
HE JUST PUT HIS
HAND ON MY
SHOULDER.

AND I
STEADIED MY
LITTLE COMPOUND
BOW. ARROW
NOCKED...



"AND I FELT IT..."

"THE THING I ALWAYS
FEEL, IT'S LIKE A LITTLE
JOLT WHEN EVERY-
THING'S LINED UP."

"IT CLICKED IN."



"I LOOKED THAT BUCK
IN THE EYE AND..."



AND I WEPT.

I JUST FELL APART RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF MY DAD.

LIKE...

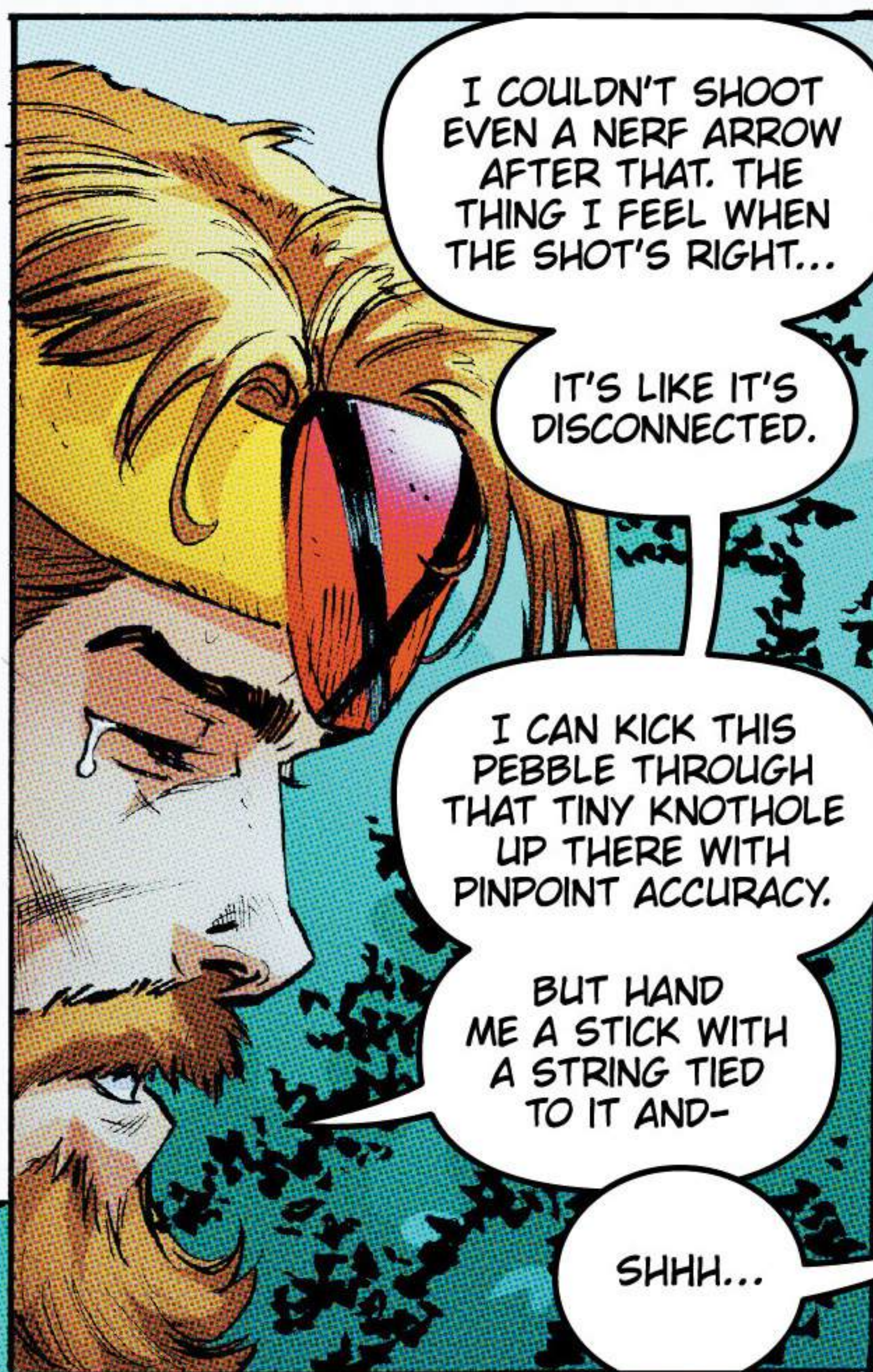
I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL SOMETHING FOR...Y'KNOW...

SHHH...



BY THE TIME HE COULD STEADY HIS OWN ARROW, THE DEER HAD HEARD ME FUSSING AND RUN OFF.

DAD DIDN'T EVER TRY TO TAKE ME OUT THERE AGAIN.



I COULDN'T SHOOT EVEN A NERF ARROW AFTER THAT. THE THING I FEEL WHEN THE SHOT'S RIGHT...

IT'S LIKE IT'S DISCONNECTED.

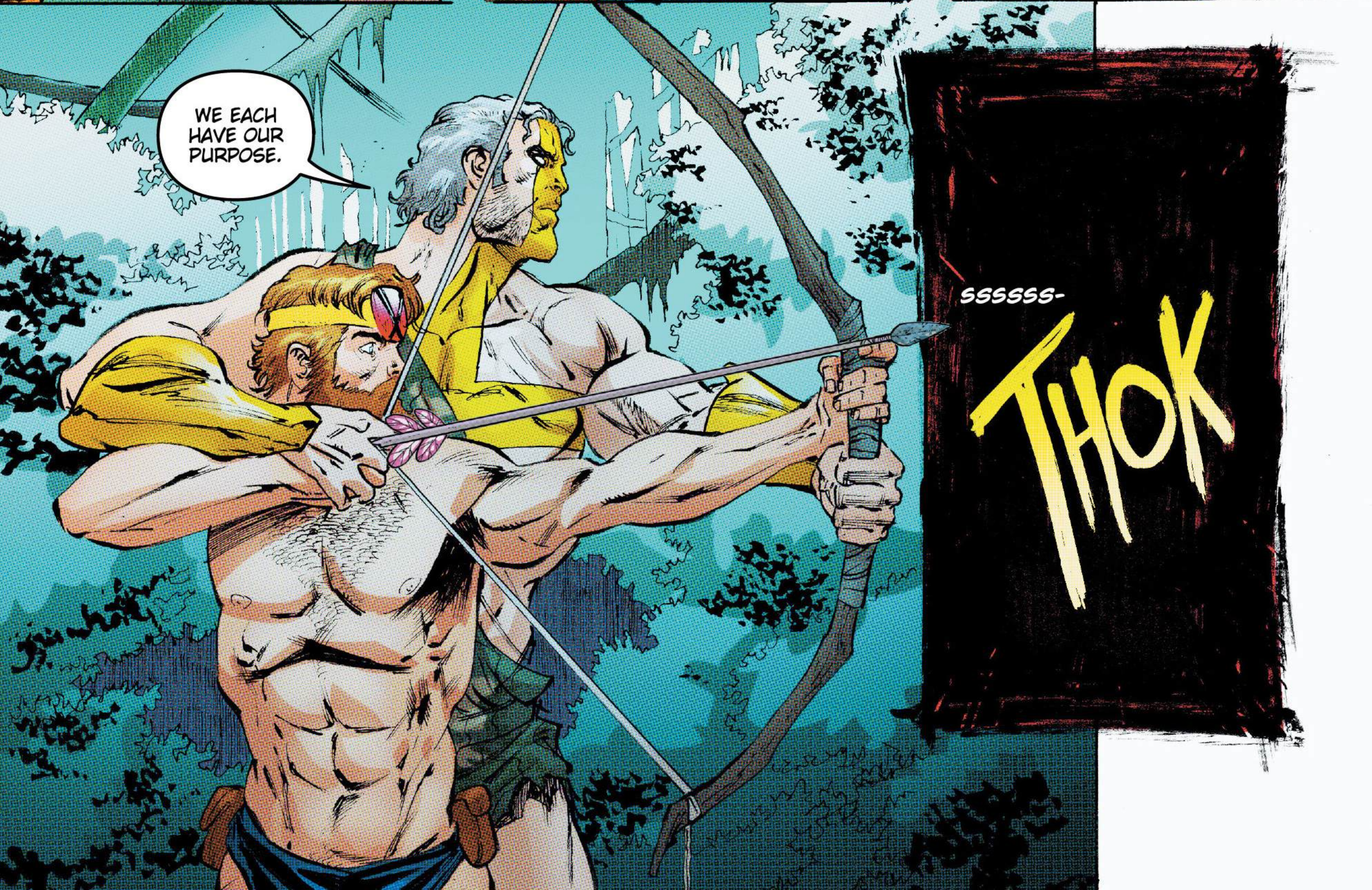
I CAN KICK THIS PEBBLE THROUGH THAT TINY KNOTHOLE UP THERE WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY.

BUT HAND ME A STICK WITH A STRING TIED TO IT AND-

SHHH...



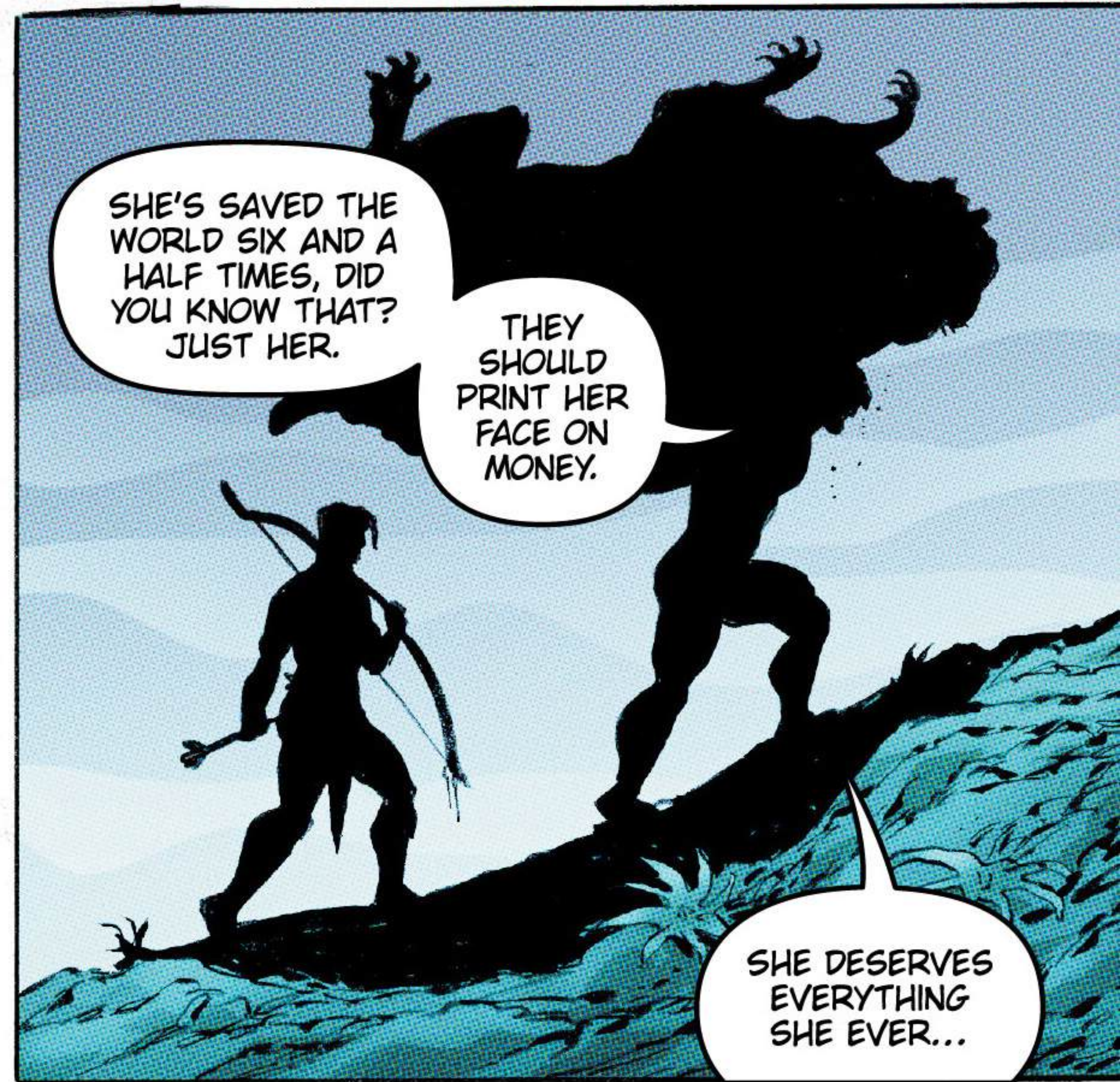
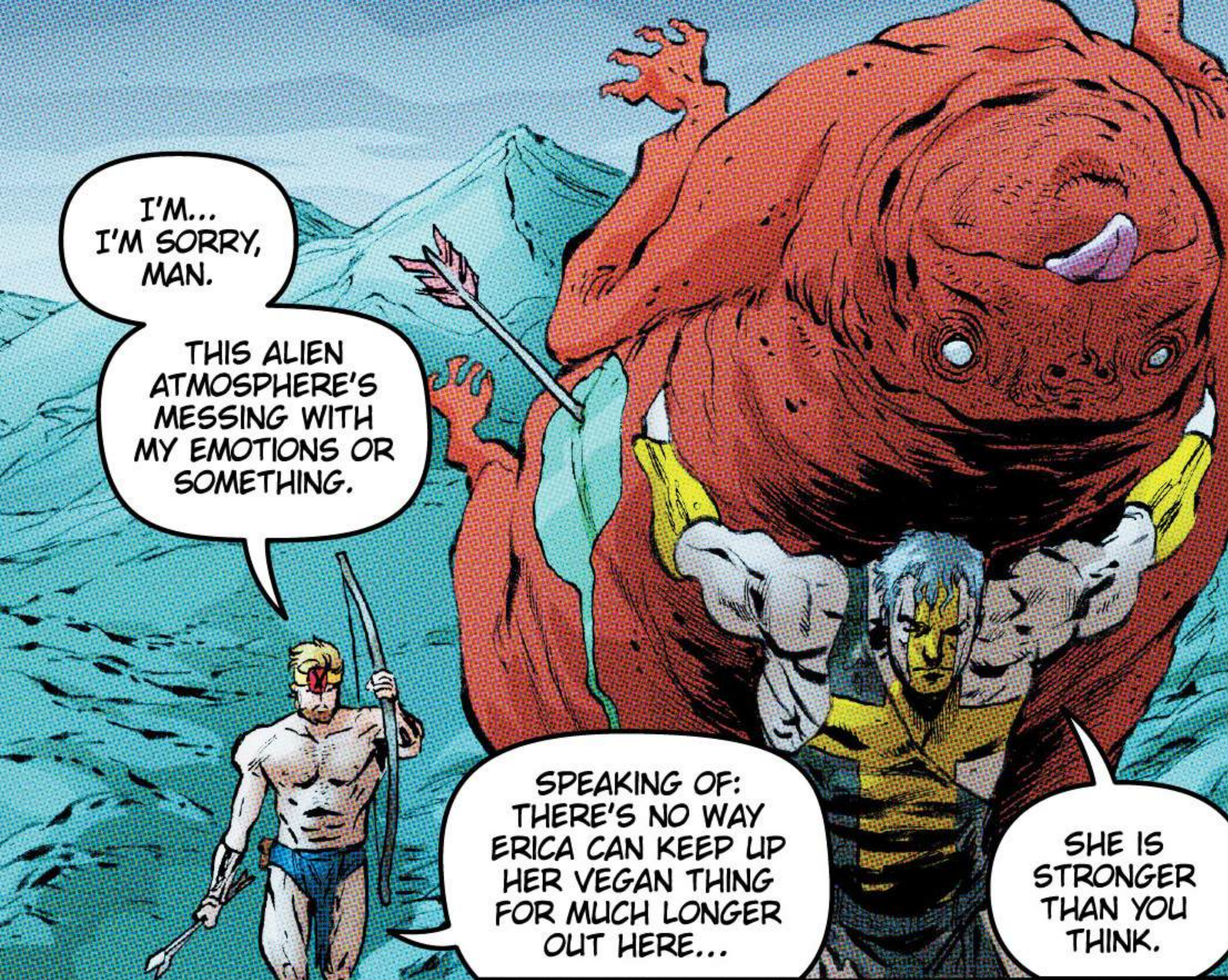
DON'T DESPAIR, SON.



WE EACH HAVE OUR PURPOSE.

SSSSSS-

THOK





AND SO I ASKED GOD'S
PURPOSE FOR US.

IF THERE WAS A RESPONSE,
IT WAS DROWNED IN THE CRIES
OF FEATHERED DOGS AND THE
MOANING OF MY WIFE.

BUT MAYBE I
KNOW THE ANSWER
TO INFINITEASE'S
QUESTION NOW.

MAYBE MY
PURPOSE ISN'T TO
BE LIKE CHRIST.

MAYBE I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE
HIS FATHER.

END TRANSMISSION.

FROM THE LOG OF THE CAMO CRUSADER.

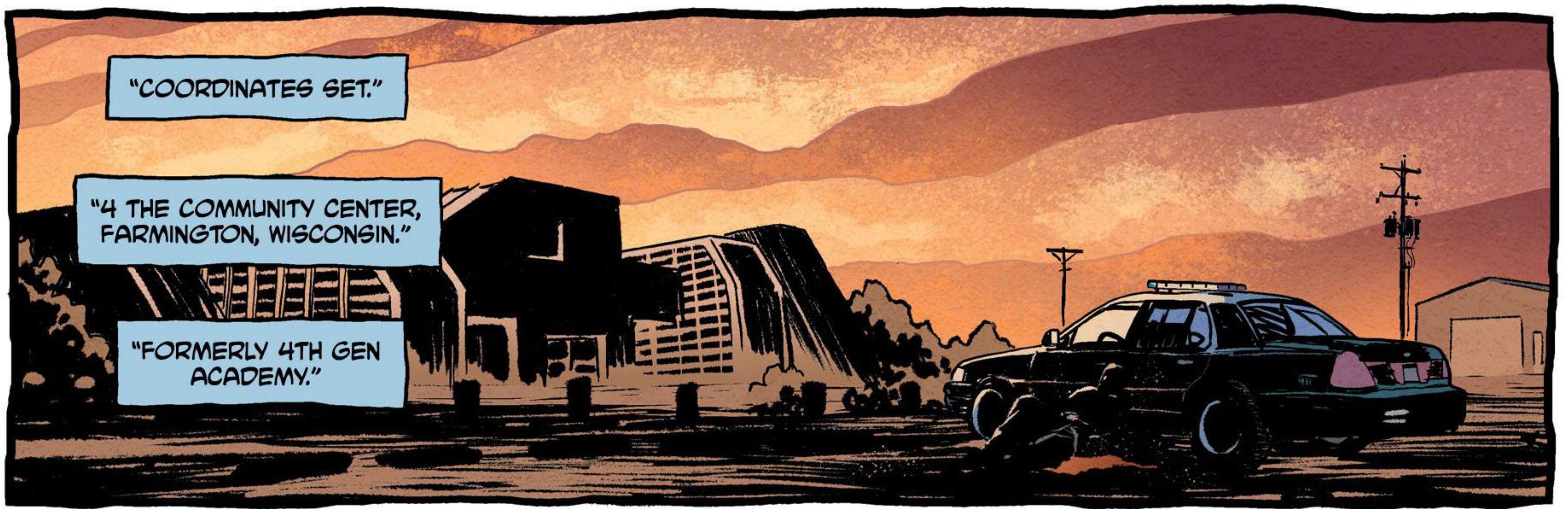
**NEXT
ISSUE**

HOMECOMING

Chapter 5



SCOTT AMF! 22



"COORDINATES SET."

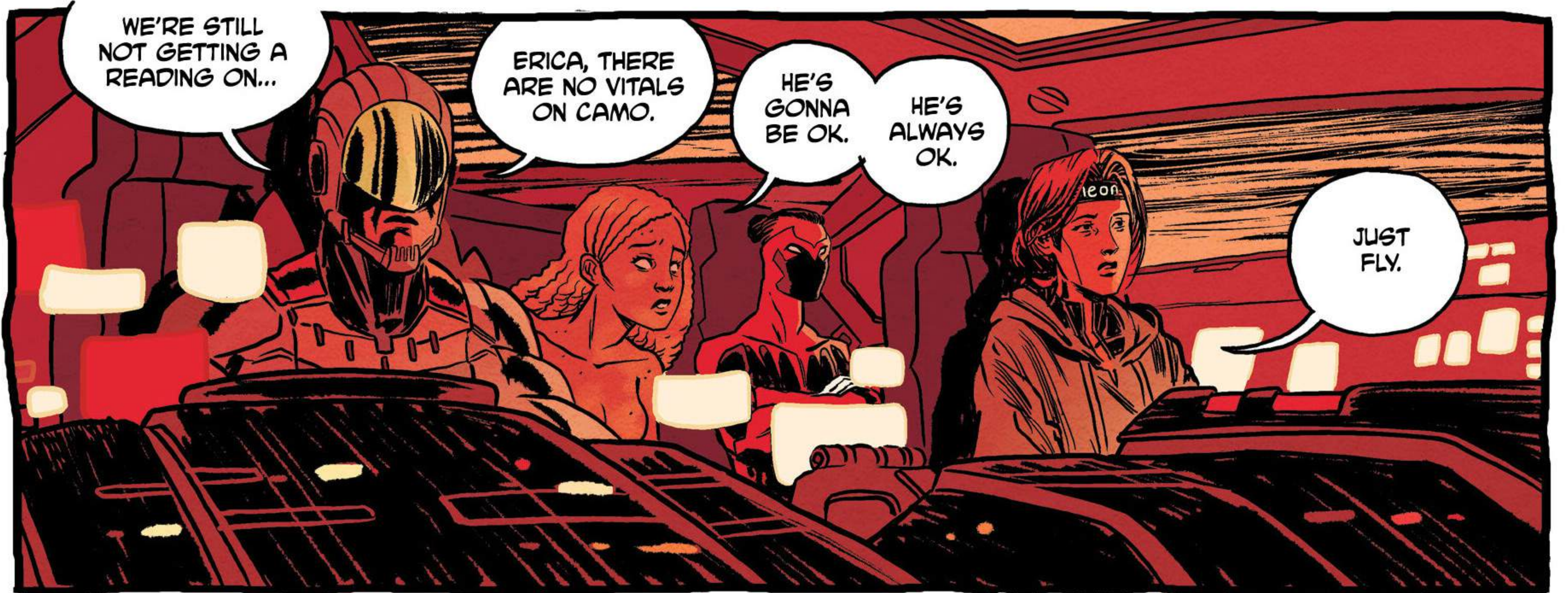
"4 THE COMMUNITY CENTER,
FARMINGTON, WISCONSIN."

"FORMERLY 4TH GEN
ACADEMY."



"TRACKING BEACON SAYS
THAT'S WHERE HE'S AT."

PEPPER,
I DON'T LIKE
THE VIBE IN
HERE...



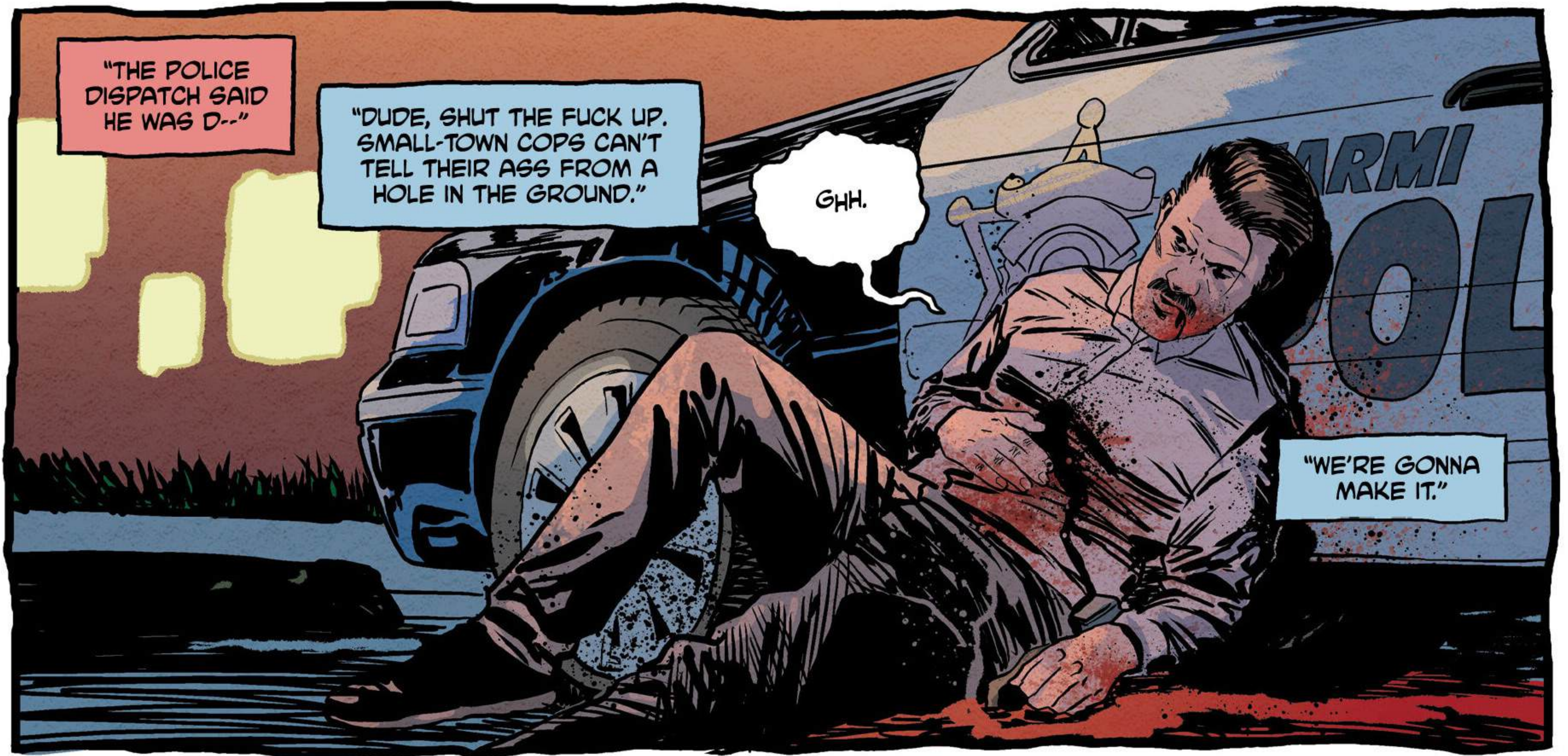
WE'RE STILL
NOT GETTING A
READING ON...

ERICA, THERE
ARE NO VITALS
ON CAMO.

HE'S
GONNA
BE OK.

HE'S
ALWAYS
OK.

JUST
FLY.

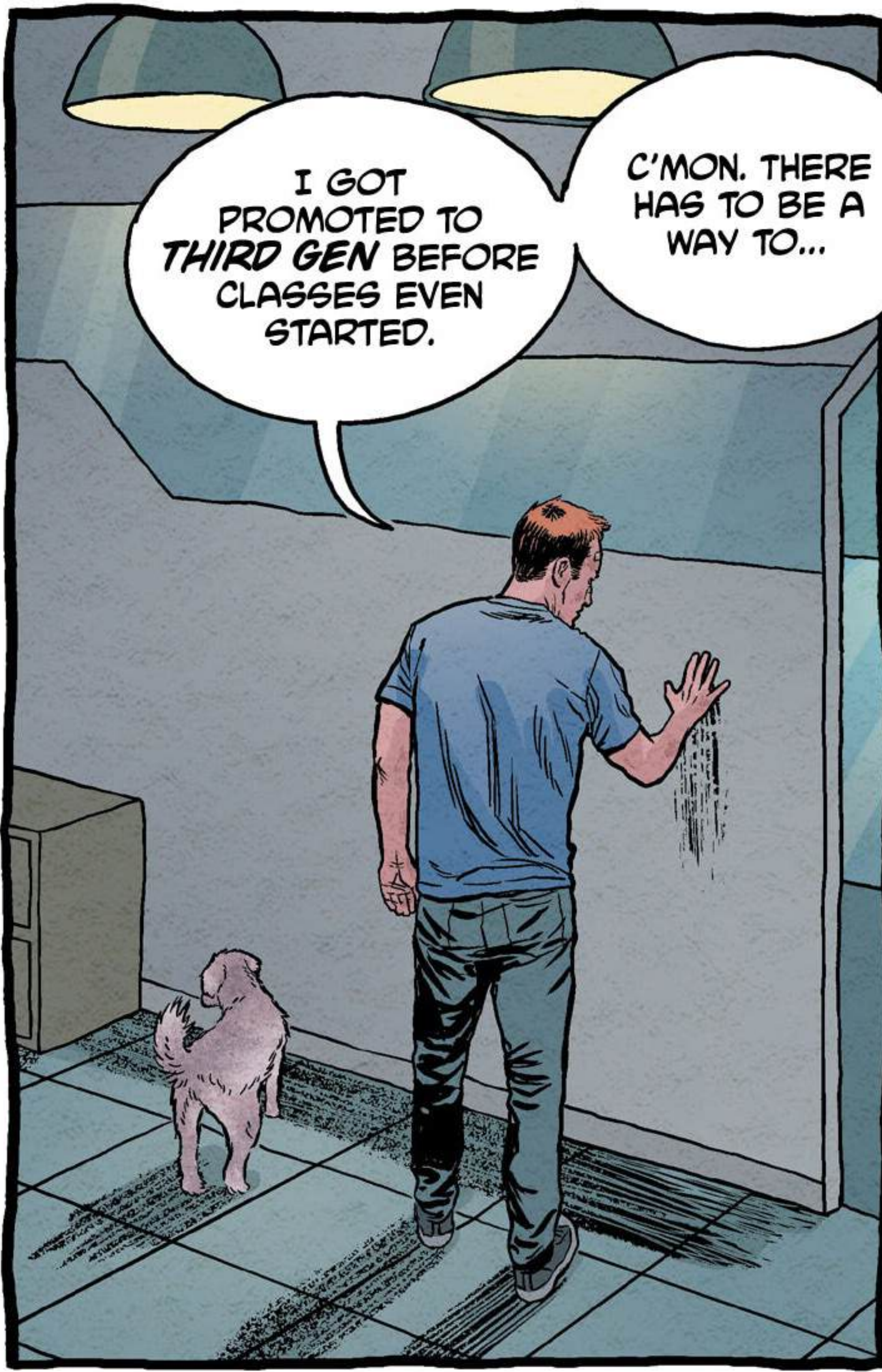


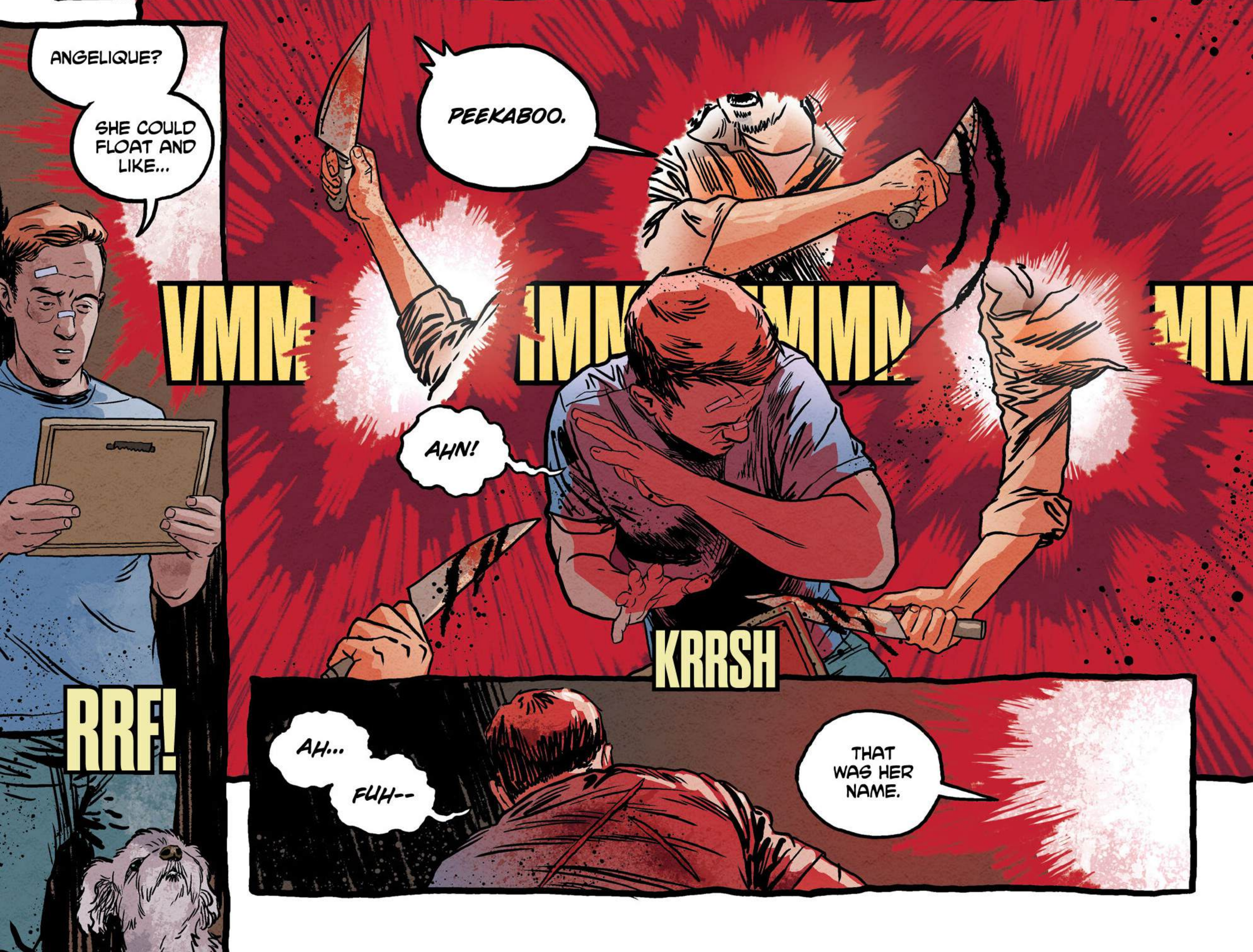
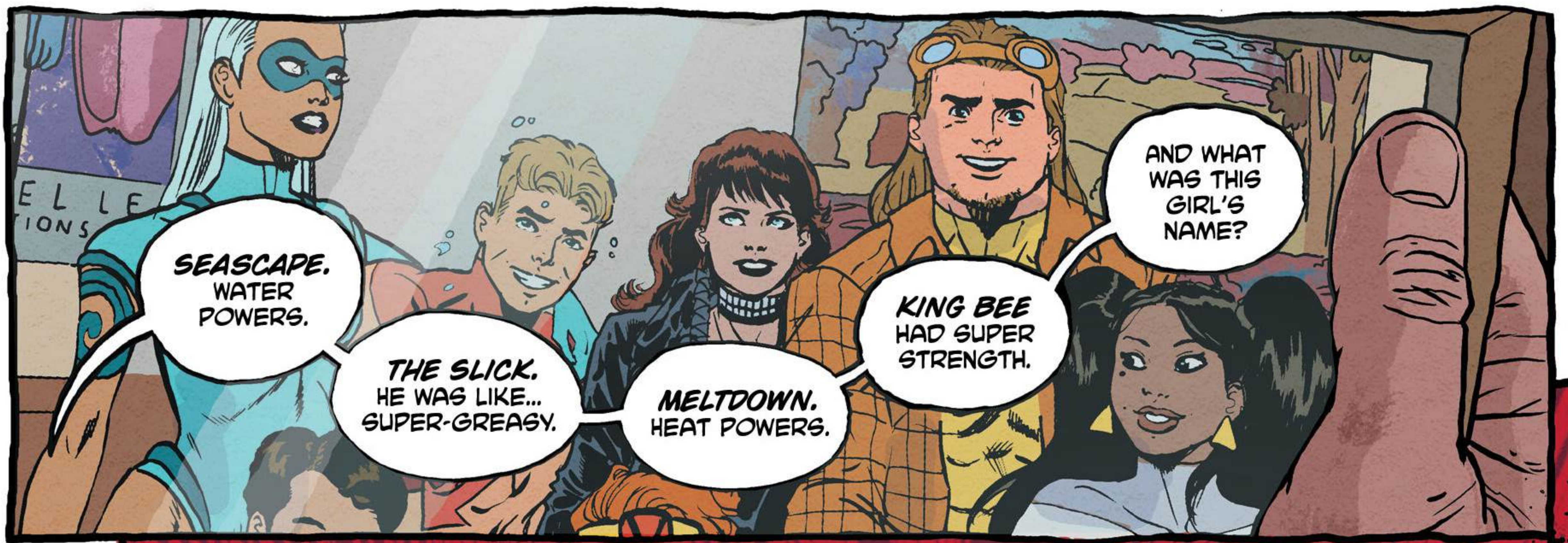
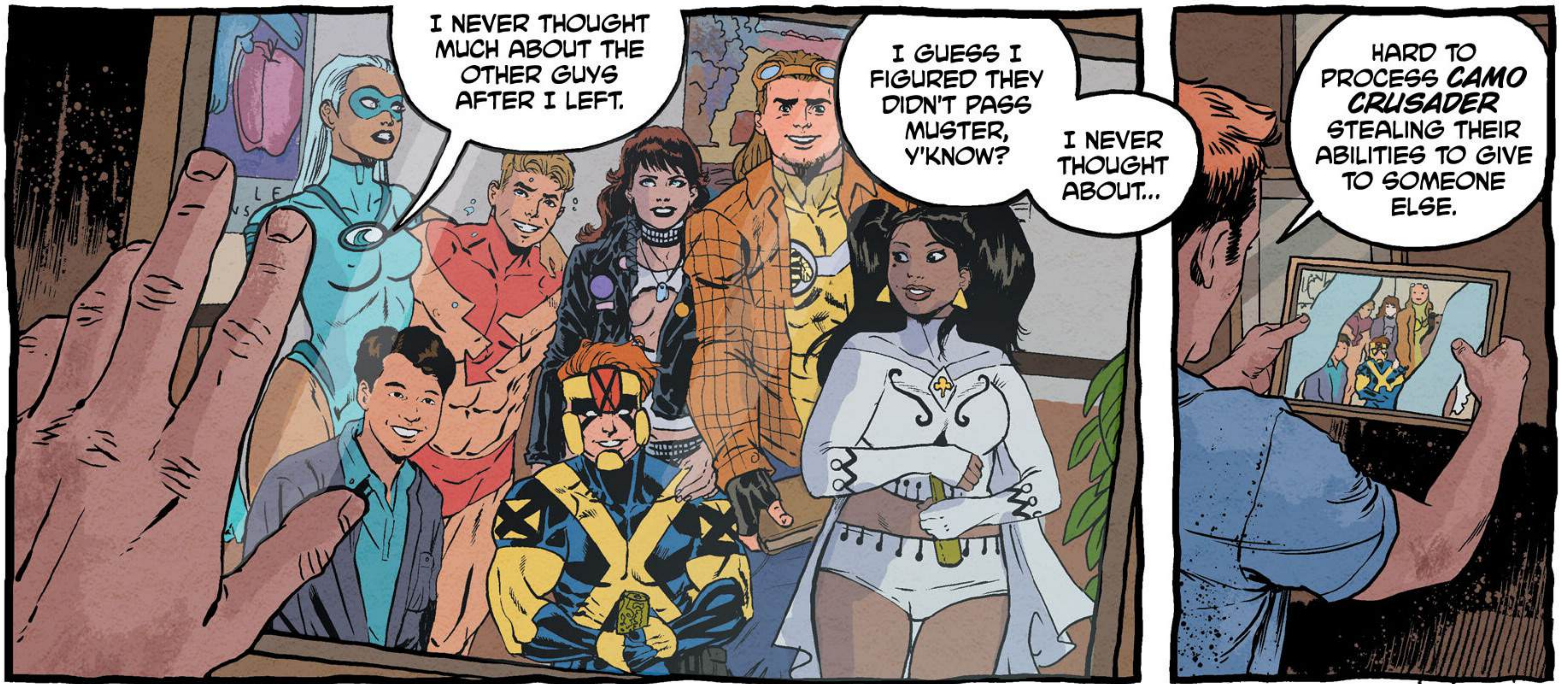
"THE POLICE
DISPATCH SAID
HE WAS D--"

"DUDE, SHUT THE FUCK UP.
SMALL-TOWN COPS CAN'T
TELL THEIR ASS FROM A
HOLE IN THE GROUND."

GHH.

"WE'RE GONNA
MAKE IT."







TELEPORTATION
POWERS.



WHA--



IT MADE THIS
BUZZING TONE.
I GUESS THE
OTHER KIDS
HATED IT.

ONE A' THEM
FIELDS, Y'KNOW.
ELECTRO-WHAT-
EVER.

FUCKED
UP THEIR
WALKMANS N'
PLAYSTATIONS
N' SHIT.

ME? I LOVE IT.
GOT A PLEASIN'
SOUND.

AND IT DOES
A NUMBER ON
JAIL SECURITY
CAMERAS.

YOU...



YOU
KILLED
HODAG!

HE CAME TO
YOU FOR HELP
AND WHAT DID
YOU DO?

**THE CAN'T-
MISS-KID
ALWAYS HITS
WHATEVER'S IN
FRONT OF HIM.**

WELL, I
AIN'T IN
FRONT OF
YOU.

I'M IN MY
GRANDMA'S
BACKYARD.

VMMMMMMMMM

VMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

I'M AT THE WATER-SLIDES.

5 FT

I'M RUNNING
PAST THE
CORPSE OF
THE GUY WHO
YOU SHOT IN
THE FUCKIN'
EYEBALL!

AND YOU,
BITCH?

YOU'RE
RIGHT WHERE
I WANT YOU.



SHNK

AAAH!

YEAH, I'M
GONNA TAKE MY
TIME, ON YOU,
"CROSSJACK."

AND NOT JUST
BECAUSE YOU KILLED
THE GODDAMN CAMO
CRUSADER...

SAVIOR
OF THE REAL
AMERICA.

A PIECE OF
SHIT LIKE
YOU?

I'M GONNA
MAKE THIS
HURT.

KRRSH

GUH!

WH-
WHY?

BECAUSE I
SLEPT WITH CAMO
CRUSADER'S
WIFE??

FUUUCK
THAT
HURTS!

HAHA

YOU REALLY
THINK YOU'RE
SOMETHING,
DON'T YOU?



AIN'T NOBODY CARES WHO YOU FUCK ANYMORE, JACKOFF.

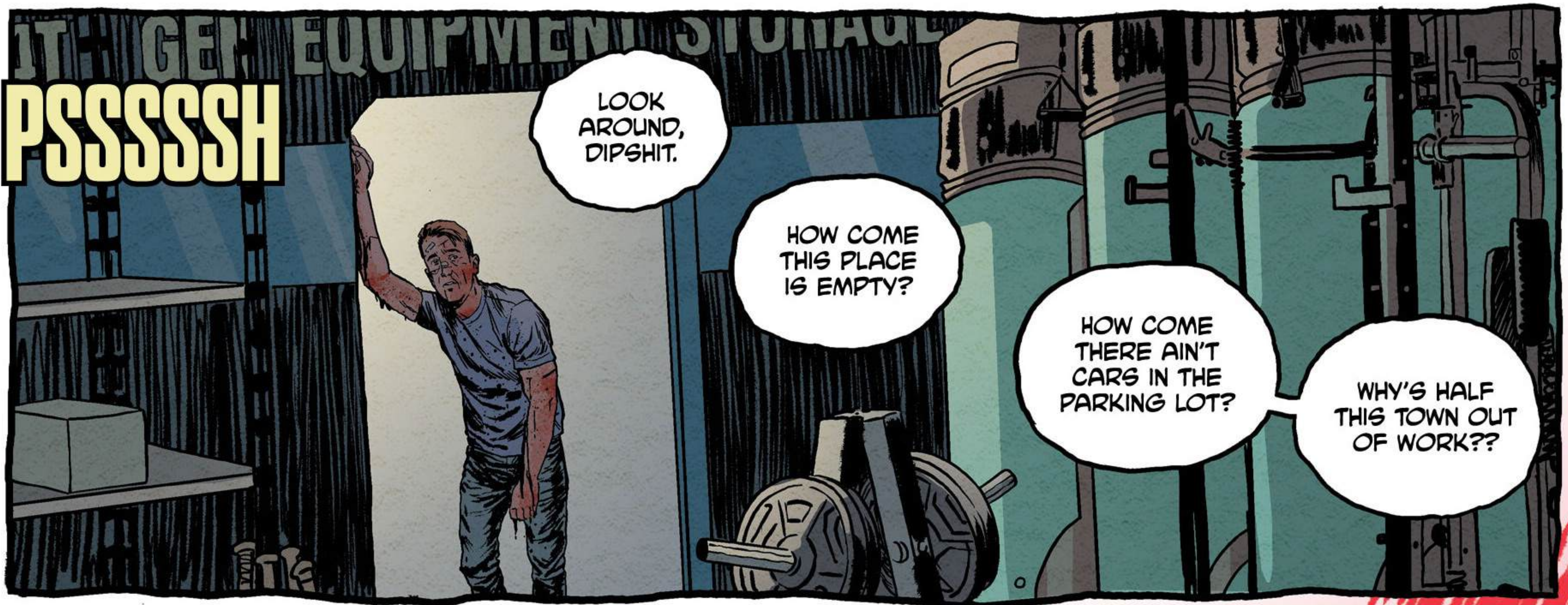
IT AIN'T THE NINETIES.

GHH.



XAVER, JACK.
CODENAME: CROSSJACK.

ACCESS GRANTED.



PSSSSSH

LOOK AROUND, DIPSHIT.

HOW COME THIS PLACE IS EMPTY?

HOW COME THERE AIN'T CARS IN THE PARKING LOT?

WHY'S HALF THIS TOWN OUT OF WORK??



THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT THIS TOWN ON THE MAP!

SUPERHERO TRAINING FACILITY. JOBS! SECURITY!

FWUMP

NOW THERE AIN'T NO JOBS HERE. IT'S JUST BINGO ON FRIDAYS.

4-H IN THE SUMMER.



ALL BECAUSE YOU LEFT, CITY BOY...



MY OLD MAN WAS
SUPPOSED TO WORK
HERE. BEFORE YOU
ABANDONED THIS
TOWN.

YOU KNOW WHAT
HE DID TO MAKE
A LIVING AFTER
THAT?

RAAH!!

SHANG

HE DELIVERED
NEWSPAPERS.

DIED A
SIXTY-FOUR-
YEAR-OLD
PAPERBOY.



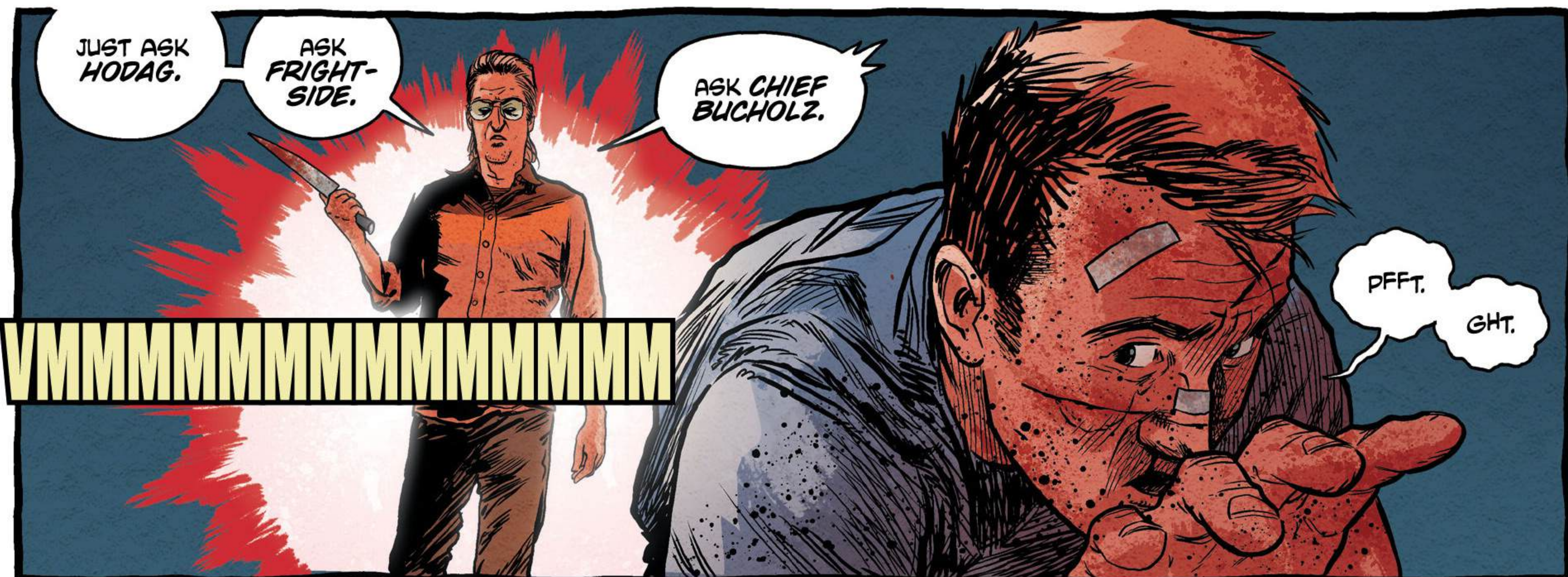
I AIN'T
GOING OUT
LIKE THAT.

I'M SOME-
BODY.



PWANG

GHK!



JUST ASK
HODAG.

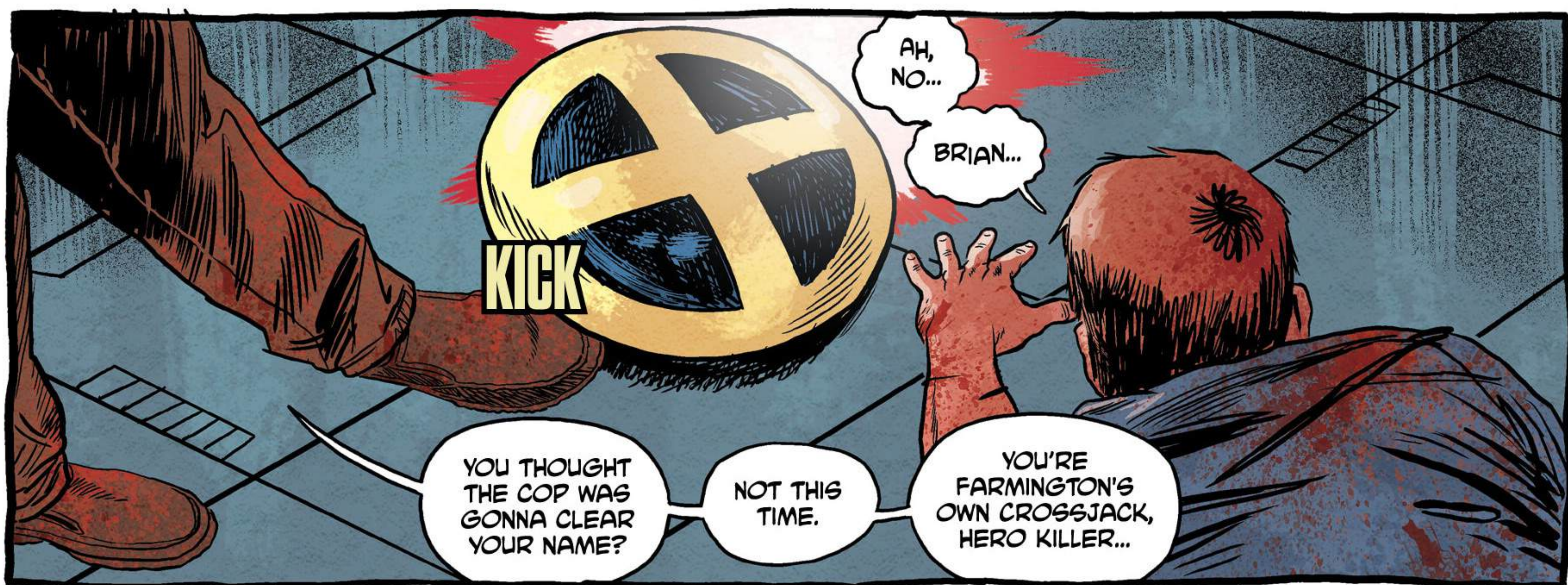
ASK
FRIGHT-
SIDE.

ASK CHIEF
BUCHOLZ.

PFFT.

GHT.

VMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM



AH,
NO...

BRIAN...

KICK

YOU THOUGHT
THE COP WAS
GONNA CLEAR
YOUR NAME?

NOT THIS
TIME.

YOU'RE
FARMINGTON'S
OWN CROSSJACK,
HERO KILLER...



BROUGHT
DOWN BY THEIR
EXTREME NEW
SUPERHERO.

NNNH...

PRAISE
DELIVERANCE



...THE
FUCK?

RRRRRRRRRR



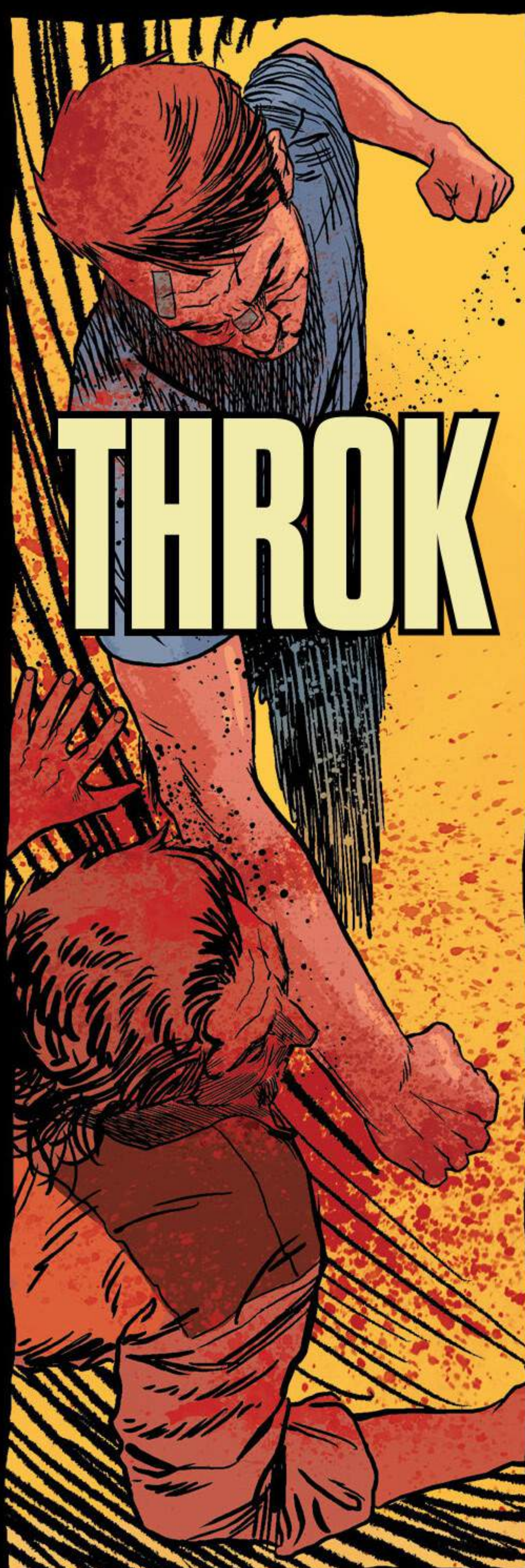


VMMMMMMMM

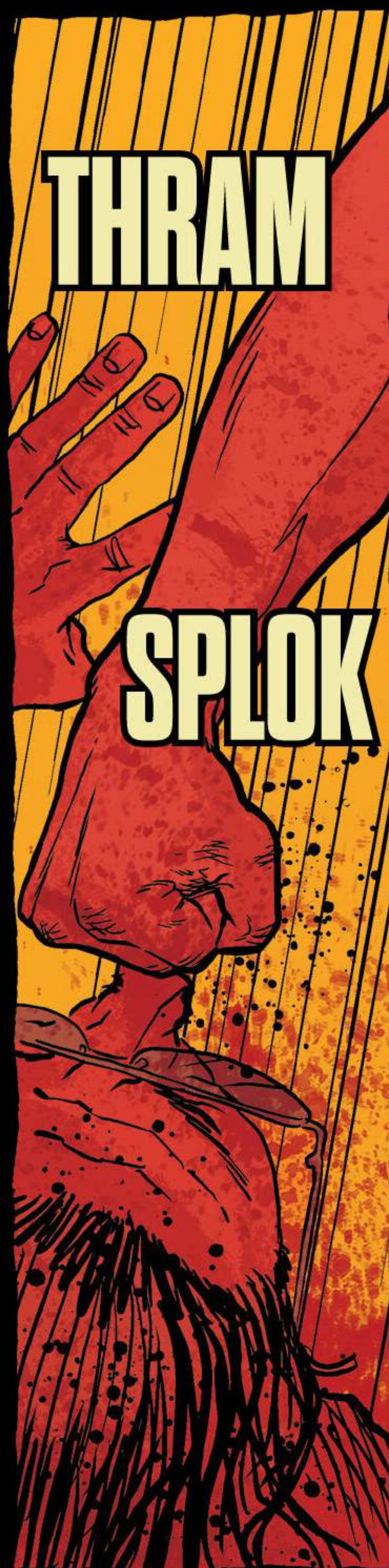
THRAKOOOM



WHOK



THROK



THRAM

SPLOK

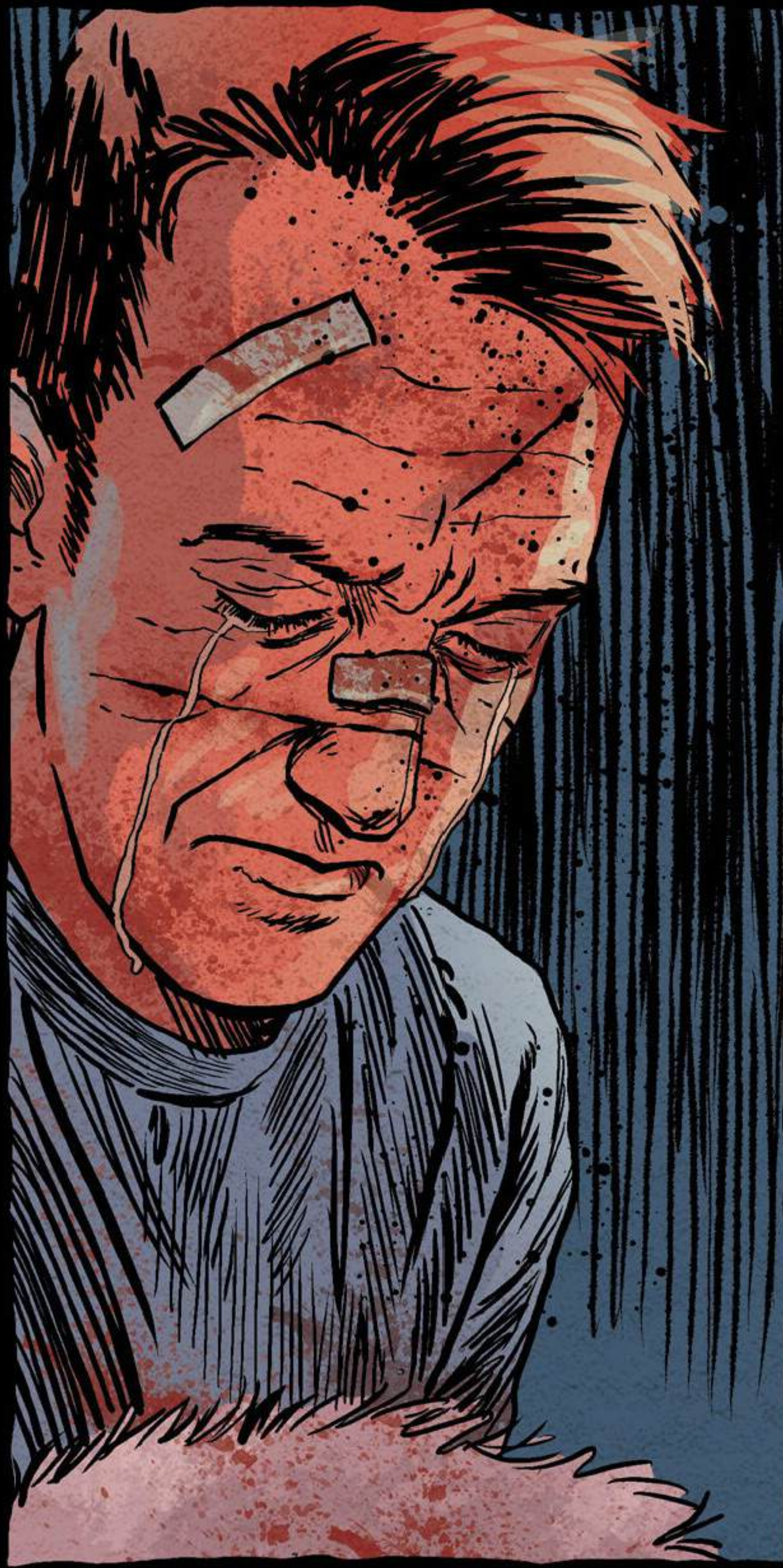


GHHH

HNN.

OH SHIT.

SHIT. PEPPER!







INGA!?



HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
IS BRIAN--?

CALLED ME.

TOLD ME HE LOVED ME AND THE KIDS.

I...

I GOT AN AMBULANCE. JUST IN TIME.

...TOOK HIS GUN. JACK. WHAT IS ALL THIS?



HODAG.

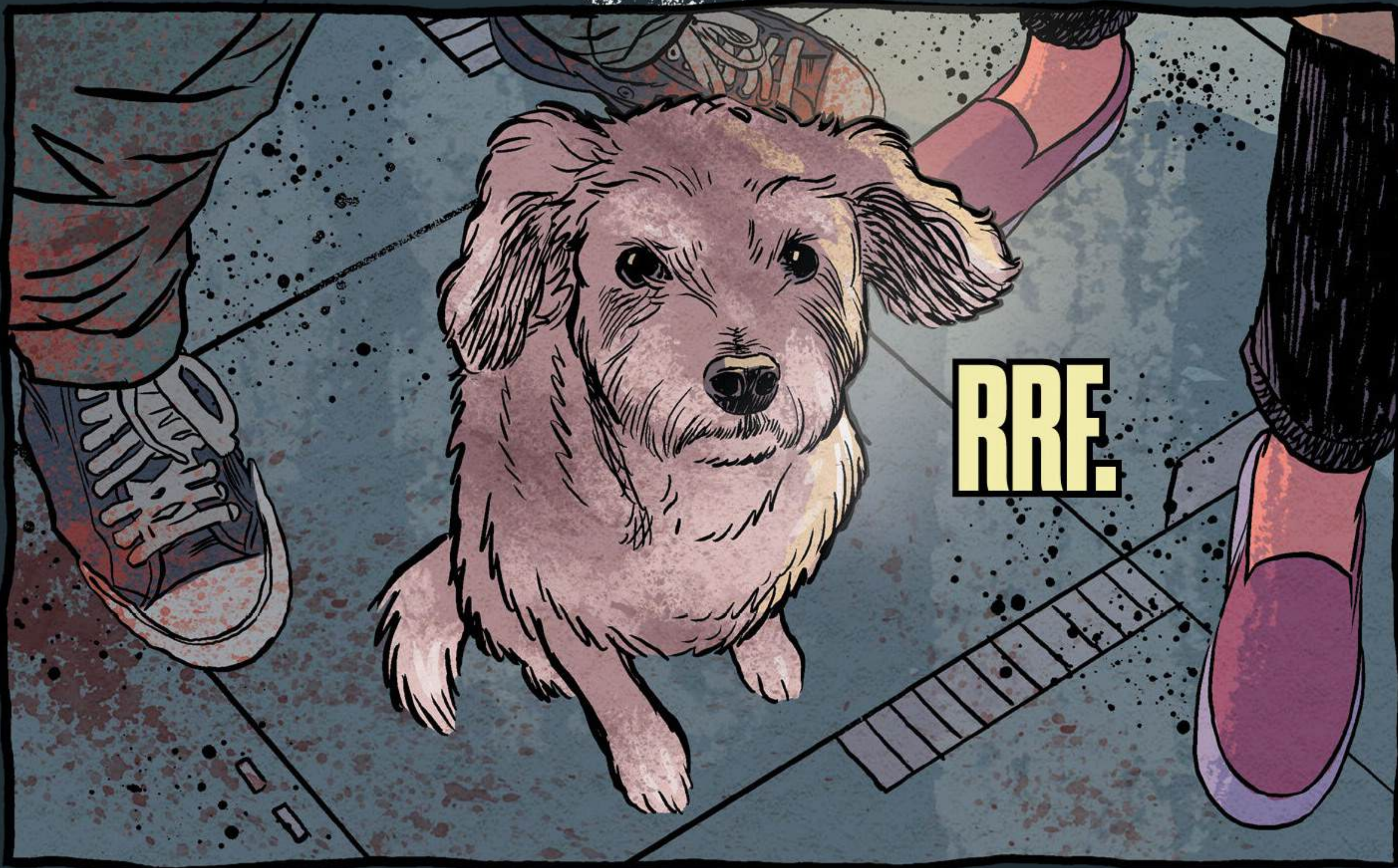
THAT PRICK KILLED HIM FOR CAMO CRUSADER.

JEREMY KNEW STUFF.

SUPERVILLAIN PLANS TO MAKE SUPERGUYS OUT OF 4TH GEN.

AND HE KILLED PEPPER TOO.

JACK--?



RRE.



HOW THE FUCK?

THEN.

I KNOW
WE'VE HAD
OUR ISSUES...

...BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING COSMIC-
LEVEL FUCKED UP GOING
ON IN THIS TOWN.

IT NEEDS THE
CAMO CRUSADER
AND THIRD GEN...

RESTRICTED
AREA
FARMINGTON QUARRY
KEEP OUT

WARNING
ELECTRIFIED
SECURITY FENCE

WAIT...
YOU AREN'T
WET.

HOW DID
YOU GET IN
HERE?

WAKOOM

I NEVER
FIGURED
YOU'D COME
BACK HERE...

KLK

WHY, AFTER ALL
THIS TIME, DID YOU
SUDDENLY DECIDE
TO ACTUALLY DO
SOMETHING?

I CAN ASK
AND ASK ALL
I WANT, BUT
I ALREADY
KNOW THE
ANSWER.

ACTIVATED

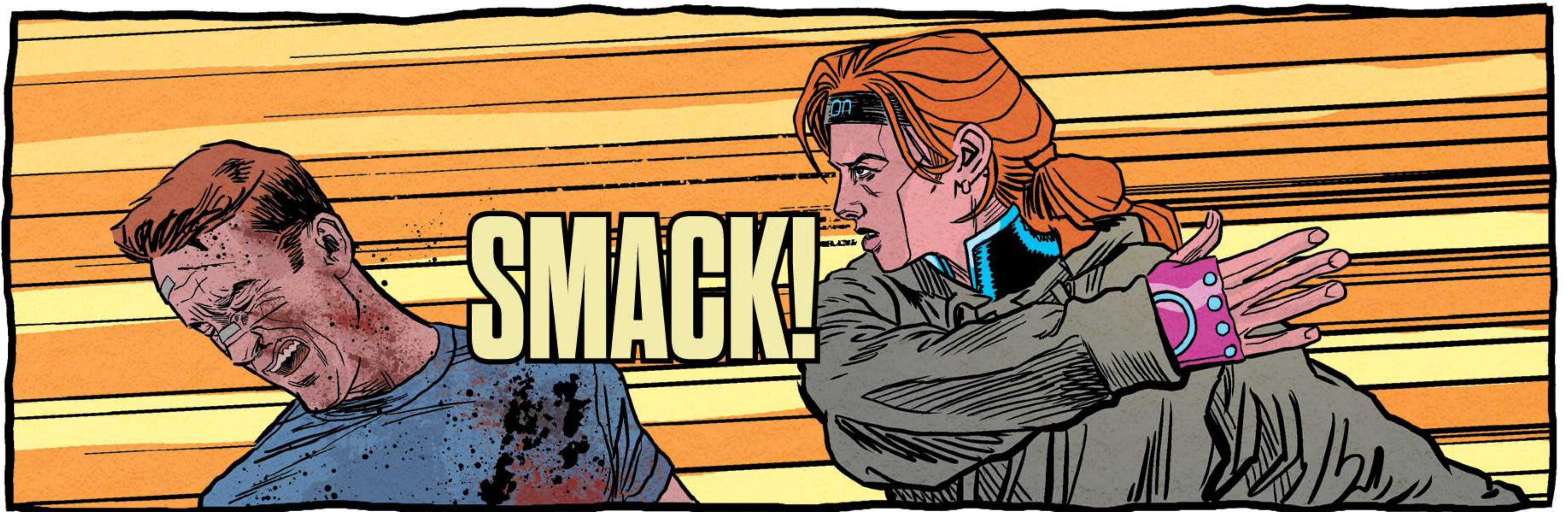
CHOOM

NOW.

...
YOU
REALLY ARE
INVINCIBLE.

CROSSJACK!
GET YOUR ASS OUT
HERE, RIGHT NOW!

STAY
HERE.







YOU KNOW WHY I LIKED YOU, JACK?

WHY IT WAS YOU INSTEAD OF CUTTING EDGE OR AIR RAIDER OR...

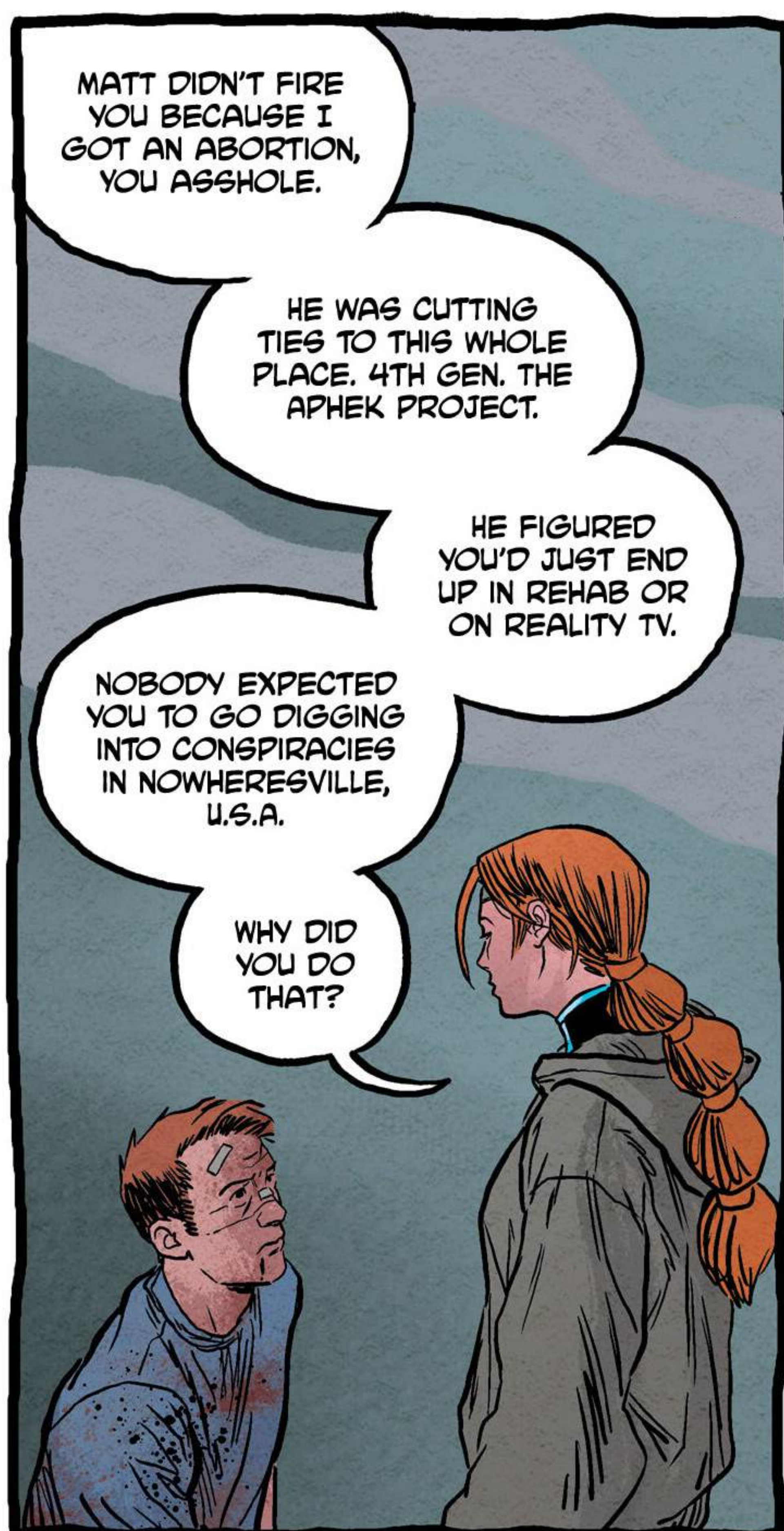
BECAUSE...

I DON'T HAVE FLAMING KNIVES FOR FINGERS?



BECAUSE YOU'RE UNCOMPLICATED. SIMPLE.

YOU DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANYTHING.



MATT DIDN'T FIRE YOU BECAUSE I GOT AN ABORTION, YOU ASSHOLE.

HE WAS CUTTING TIES TO THIS WHOLE PLACE. 4TH GEN. THE APHEK PROJECT.

HE FIGURED YOU'D JUST END UP IN REHAB OR ON REALITY TV.

NOBODY EXPECTED YOU TO GO DIGGING INTO CONSPIRACIES IN NOWHERESVILLE, U.S.A.

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?



THIS IS MY *HOME*, ERICA.

IS IT?

I DON'T THINK YOU BELIEVE THAT.

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS PLACE OR ANY OTHER PLACE.



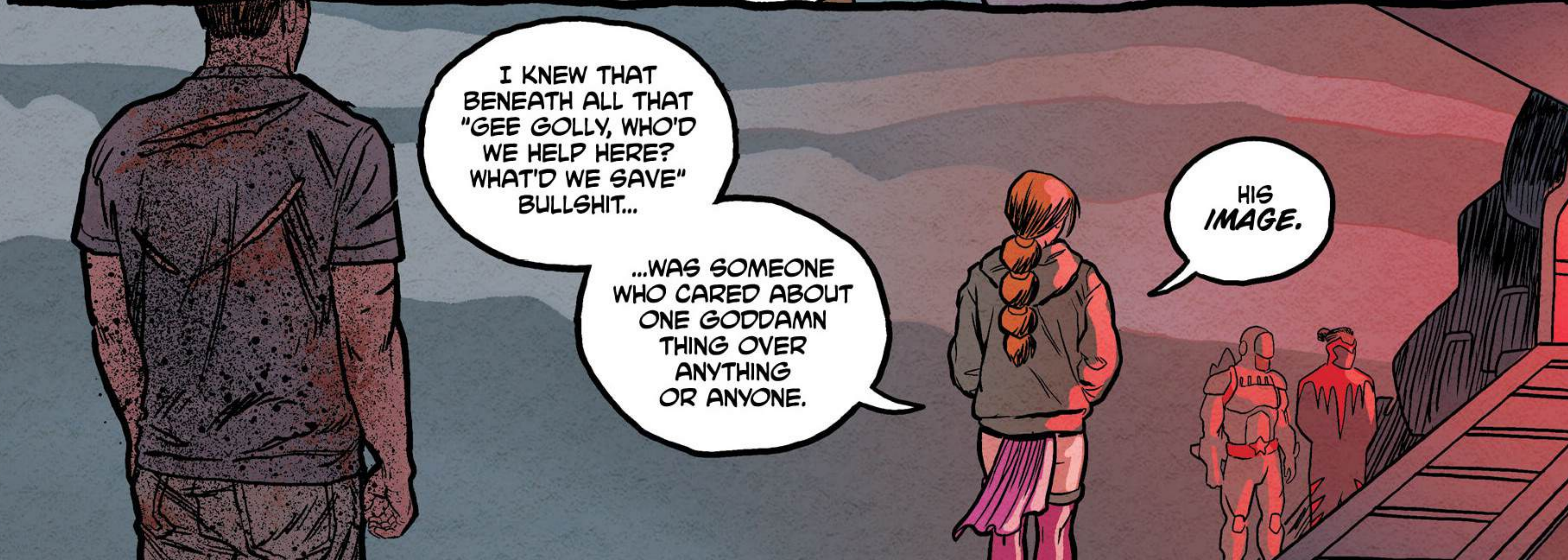
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.

WHY I DIDN'T HAVE YOUR CHILD.

I KNEW.

I KNEW YOU WANTED TO GET THE FUCK OUT OF THIS TOWN SO BAD...

...YOU'D MAKE SURE YOUR ARCHENEMY ATTACKED A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SO YOU COULD SHOW OFF.



I KNEW THAT BENEATH ALL THAT "GEE GOLLY, WHO'D WE HELP HERE? WHAT'D WE SAVE" BULLSHIT...

...WAS SOMEONE WHO CARED ABOUT ONE GODDAMN THING OVER ANYTHING OR ANYONE.

HIS IMAGE.

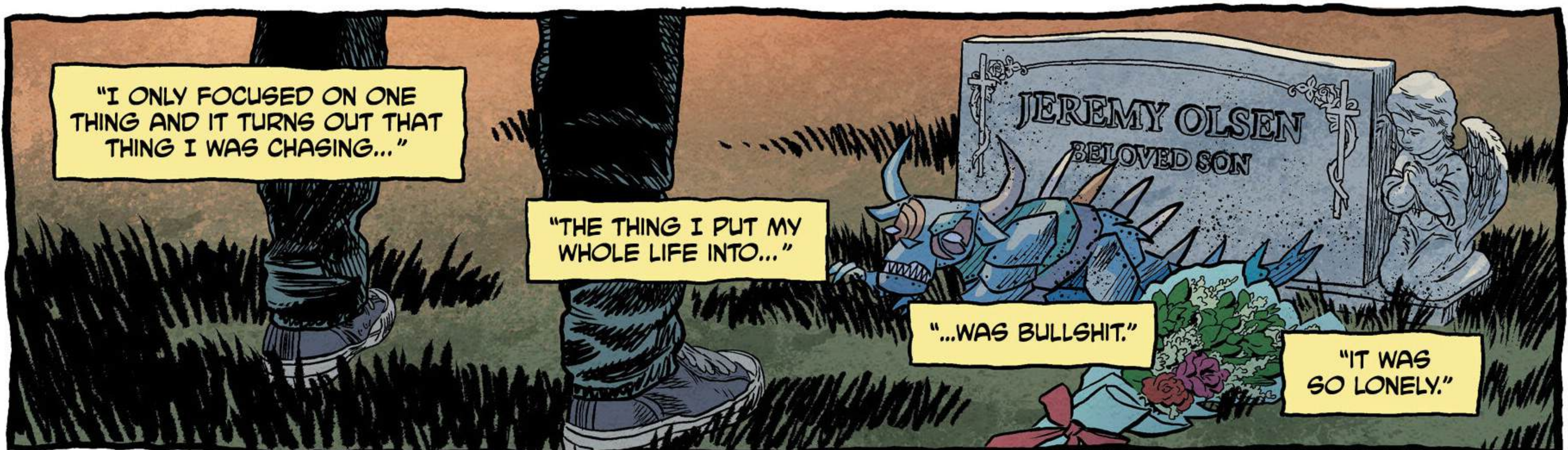


"SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT CAMO CRUSADER..."

"AT LEAST HE BELIEVED IN SOMETHING."



"I... I DID ONLY CARE ABOUT MYSELF."



"I ONLY FOCUSED ON ONE THING AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THING I WAS CHASING..."

"THE THING I PUT MY WHOLE LIFE INTO..."

"...WAS BULLSHIT."

"IT WAS SO LONELY."



"IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A HERO. WHAT EVEN IS THAT?"

"MY WHOLE LIFE I..."

"...IT'S SO STUPID."



"I THINK IT'S JUST ABOUT TRYING TO BE A GOOD GUY."



"HERE I AM, BORN WITH THIS THING. THIS POWER. I CAN SEE POTENTIAL."

"HOW BEST TO USE THINGS. NUNCHUCKS. SHIELDS."

"BUT IT WORKS ON PLACES TOO."



"AND I GUESS PROBABLY ON PEOPLE."

SORRY. I HAD TO...

WE KNOW.

YOUR MOM AND I HELD OFF.



JUST DON'T GO GETTIN' USED TO IT.

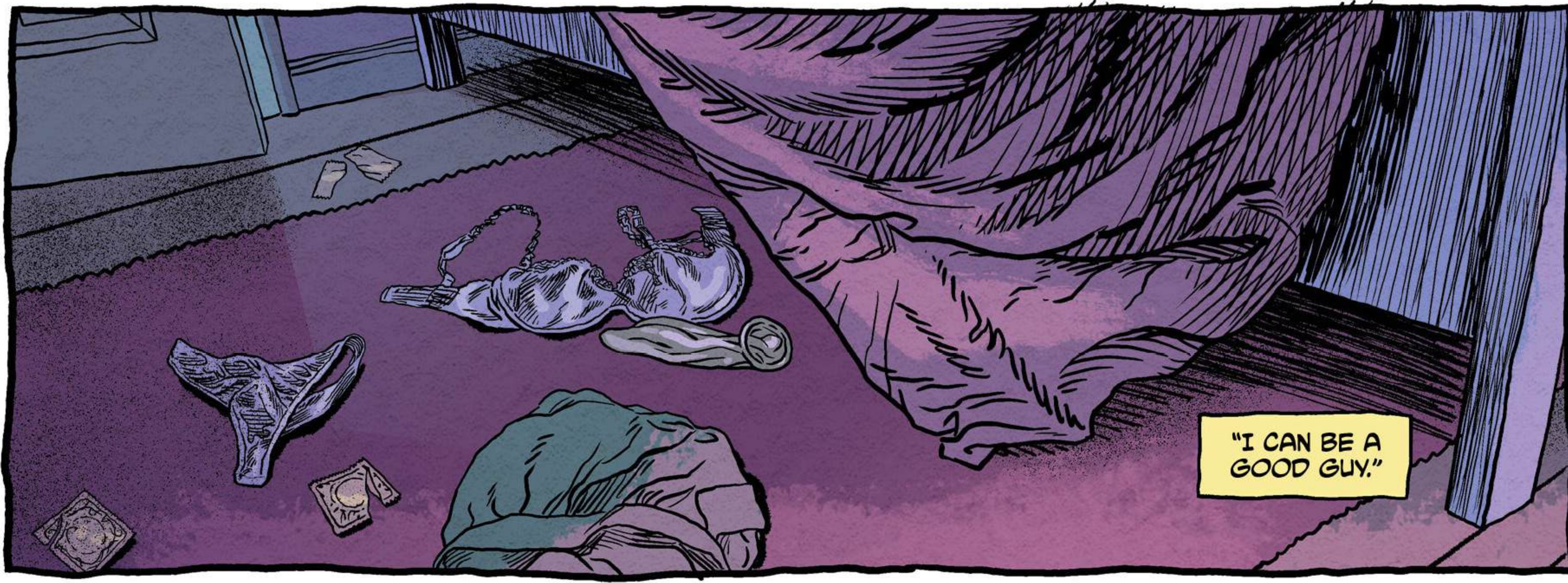
IT'S TOO LATE FOR DINNER.

"MAYBE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD."



"MAYBE I CAN'T BE A SUPERHERO."

"BUT I CAN DO LITTLE THINGS. START SMALL."



"I CAN BE A GOOD GUY."



I ALWAYS
THOUGHT YOU
WERE A PRETTY
GOOD GUY,
JACK.



BUT YOU SHOULD
GET YOUR SHIT
ON AND GET OUT
OF HERE.

BRIAN'S MOM
IS BRINGING
THE KIDS HOME
SOON.



OH...

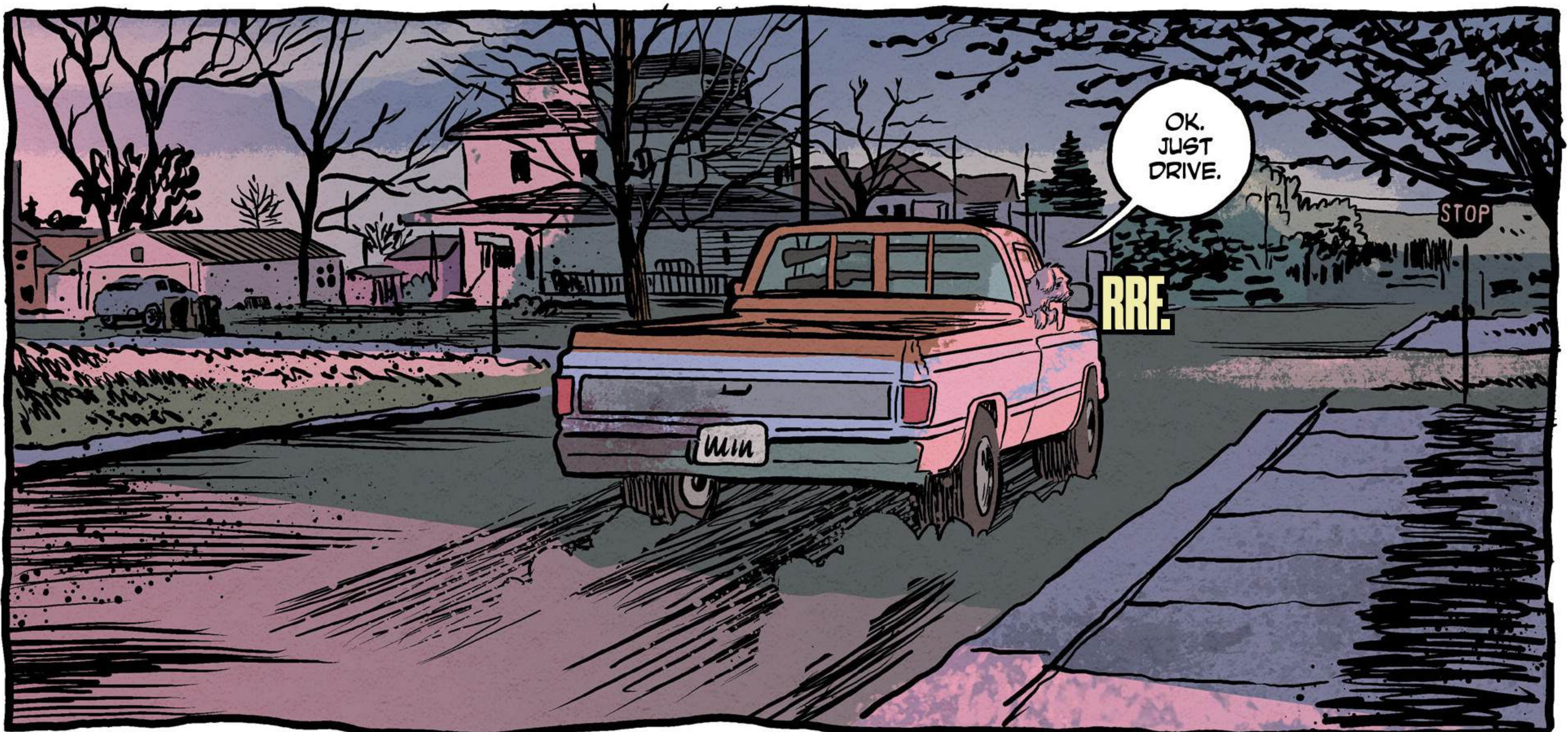
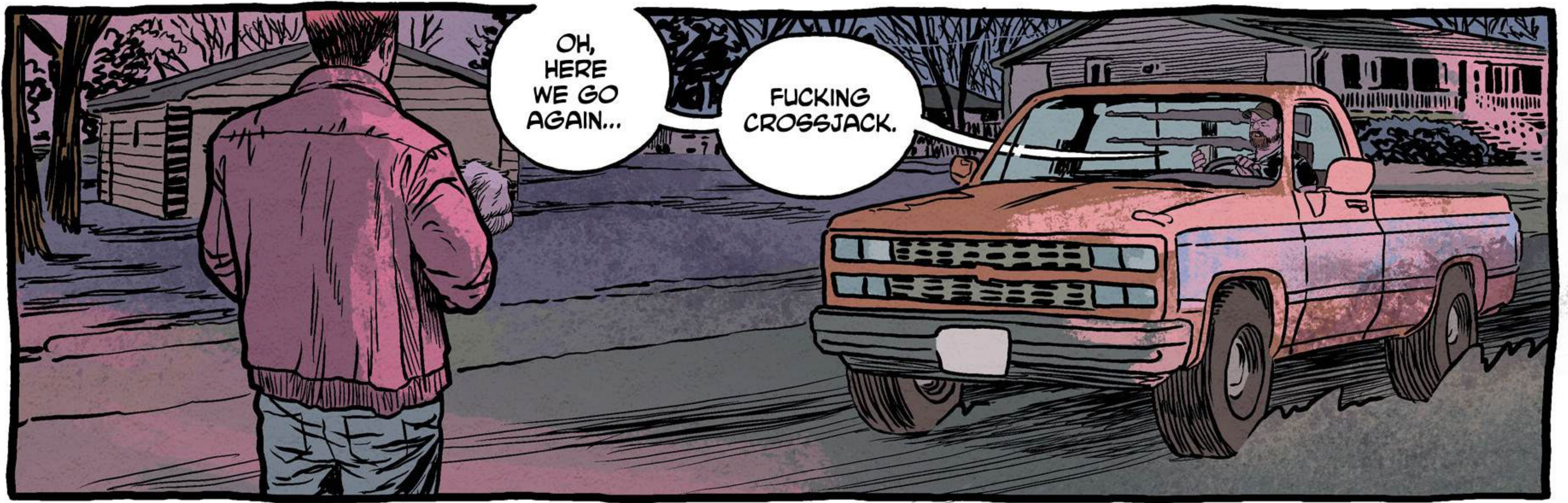
RIGHT.
UM...

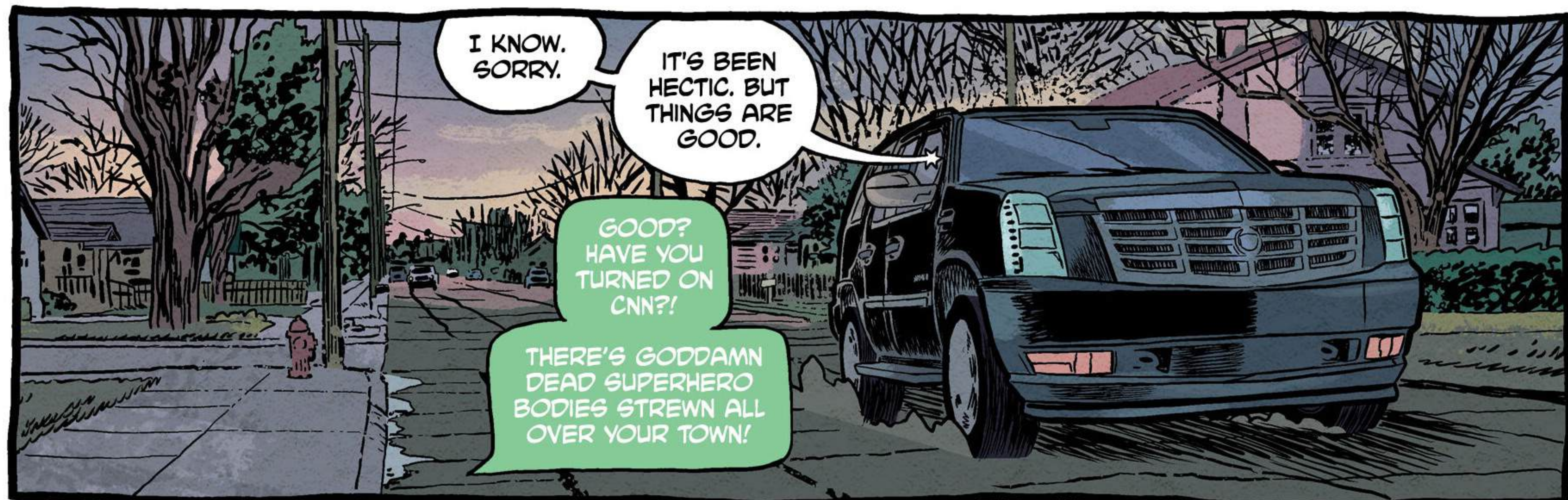
I
SHOULD,
UH...

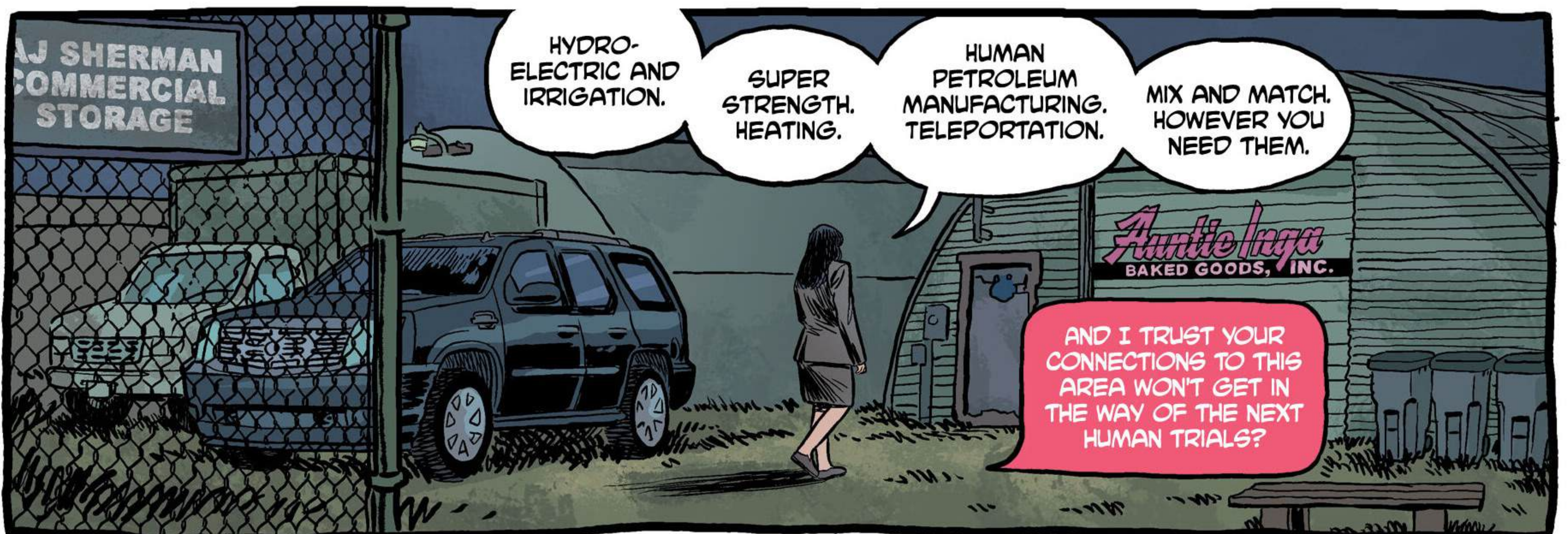


IDIOT.

TAP
TAP









YOU TAKE WHAT
YOU NEED FROM THIS
TOWN, AND THEN
YOU GET THE
FUCK OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED



THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEROES!

4TH GEN

Image
5 3.99
JUNE USD

BLASTING
OUT OF
THE PAGES OF
THIRD GEN

4TH GEN!

WHILE YOU PUSH
YOUR POWERS
TO THE LIMIT!

SEASCAPE

VMMMMMMMM

PEEKABOO

WHILE YOU CURSE
MY NAME AND WAIT
FOR THE SWEET
RELEASE OF THE
RE-GEN BEDS--

MELTDOWN

KING-BEE

THE SLICK

I WANT YOU
TO REMEMBER
SOMETHING!

image comics presents:

TRAINING DAY



NONE OF YOU ARE
SUPERHEROES!
NOT YET!

CLEAR
A PATH!

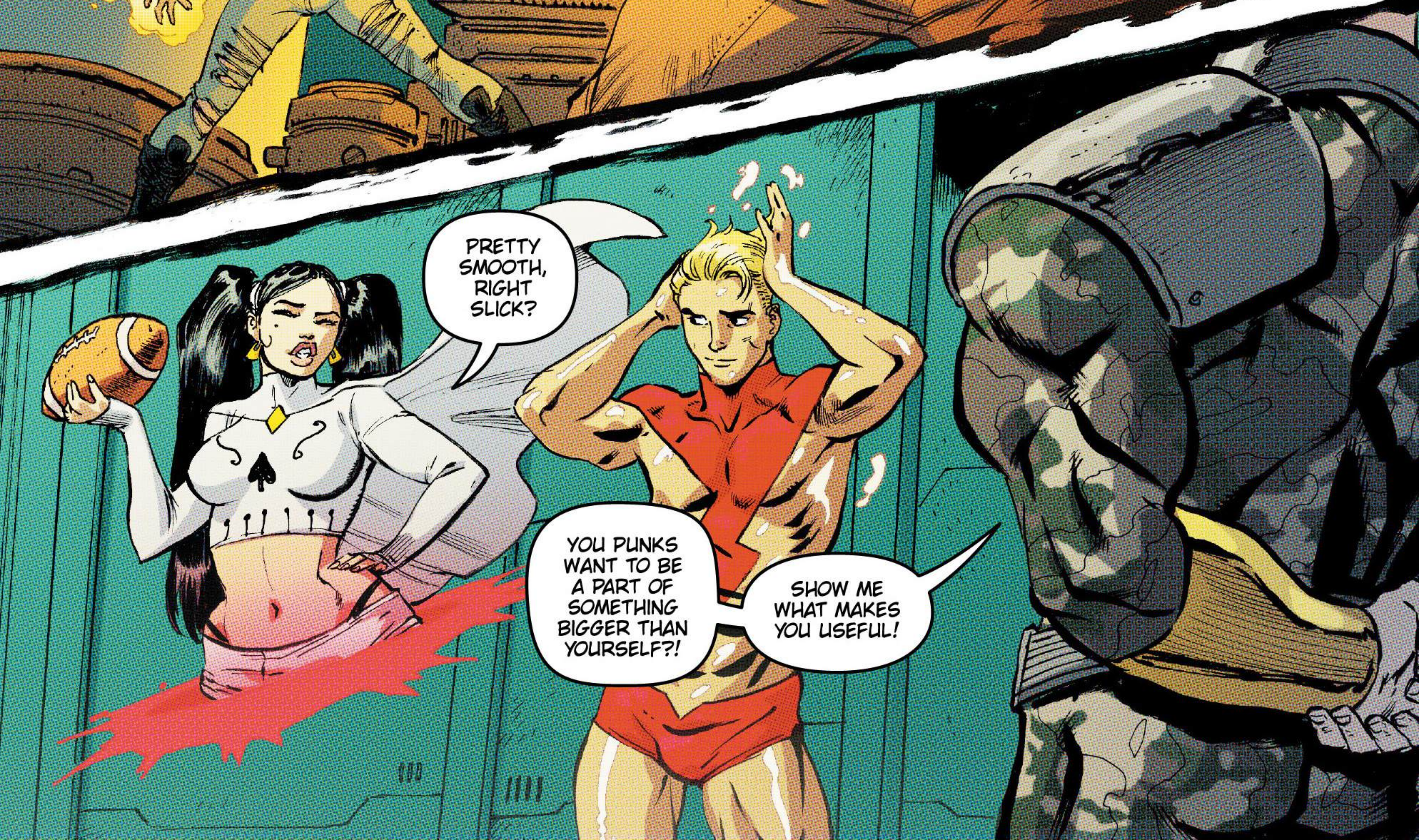
VMMMMMMM



YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT
OUTSIDERS!

LONERS!
JUST
USEFUL
PARTS!

TAKE IT
EASY, HOT
STUFF!



PRETTY
SMOOTH,
RIGHT
SLICK?

YOU PUNKS
WANT TO BE
A PART OF
SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN
YOURSELF?!

SHOW ME
WHAT MAKES
YOU USEFUL!

LATER.



DUDE, MY ASS IS BEAT LIKE A DRUM.

MY, UM... BEHIND AS WELL.

I THINK I'M GONNA HIT MY RE-GEN BED.

OKAY, CHURCH GIRL.

I COULD USE AN ICED CAPPUCCINO AND A HOT GUY WITH A GUITAR.

HA.

RIGHT, SURE, SEASCAPE.

A COFFEE SHOP.

THE ONLY THING OUTSIDE THOSE WALLS IS CORN AND GIRLS WHO THINK DUDES WHO PUT FIREWORKS IN THEIR ASSES ARE HUSBAND MATERIAL.

I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES WITH CAMO CRUSADER.

WAIT, ANGELIQUE, DON'T USE YOUR POWERS AROUND--

VMMM

WELL, THERE GOES THE SEGA.

HEY, HOW COME WE GOT DRAGGED TO CROSSJACK'S SHITTY TOWN, AND THEN HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO STAY HERE?

THAT'S THE CRIME WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING.

I MEAN, WE CAN STILL MAKE THIS PLACE FUN.

MELTDOWN, YOU GET HOT. SEASCAPE TURNS ON THE WATERWORKS.

WE GOT OURSELVES A HOT TUB PARTY!

AND WHAT ABOUT ME?

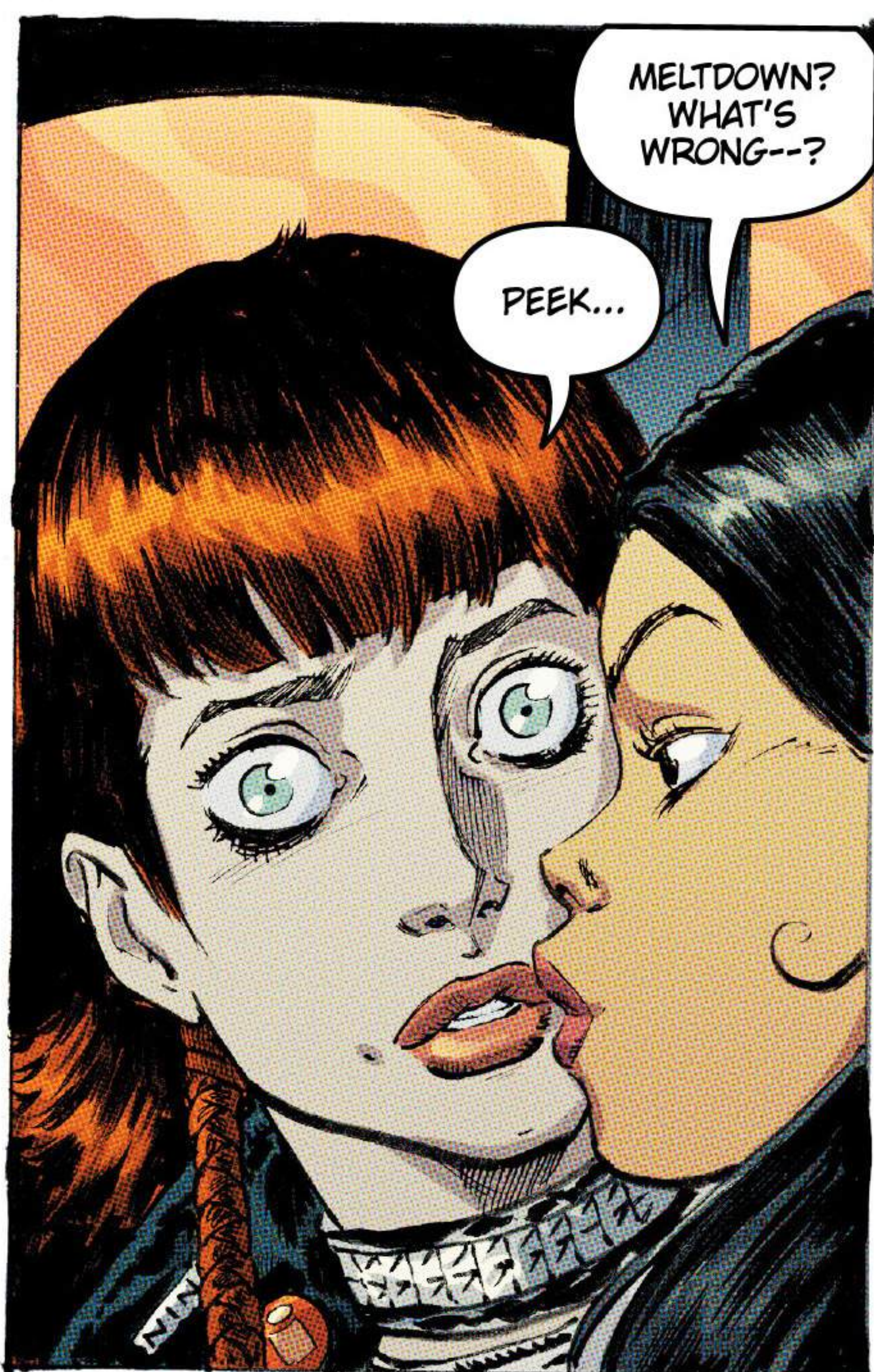
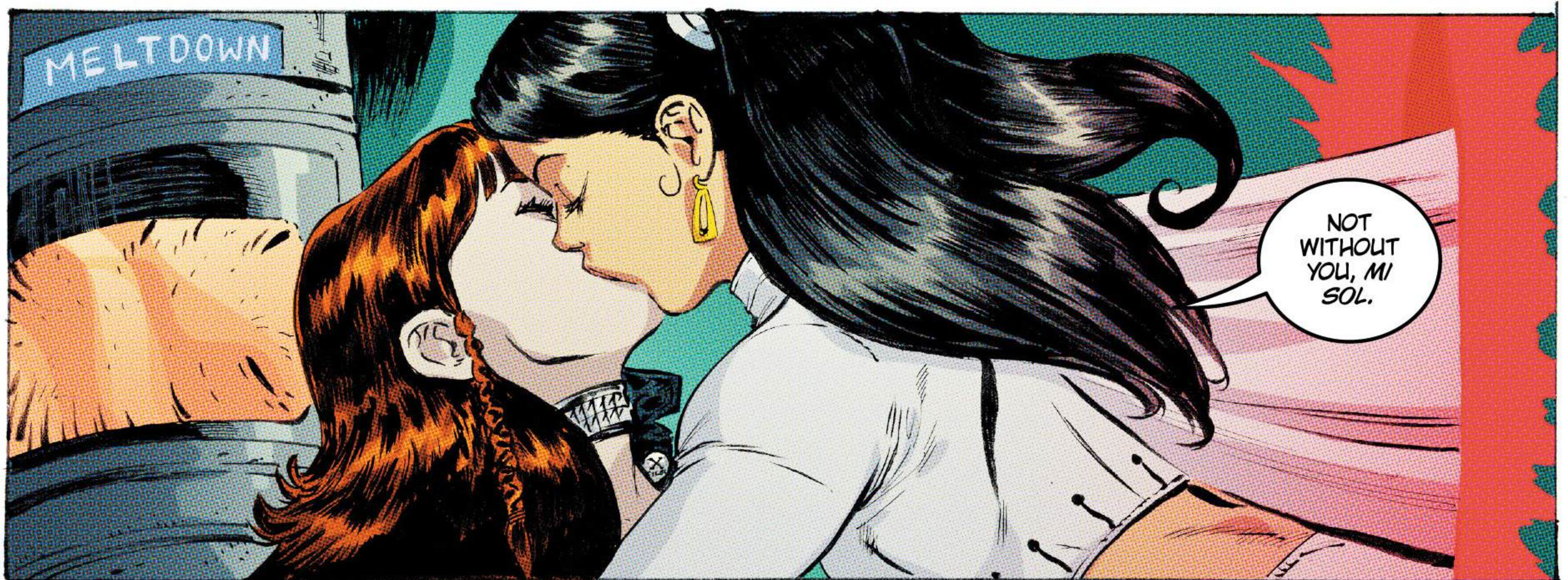
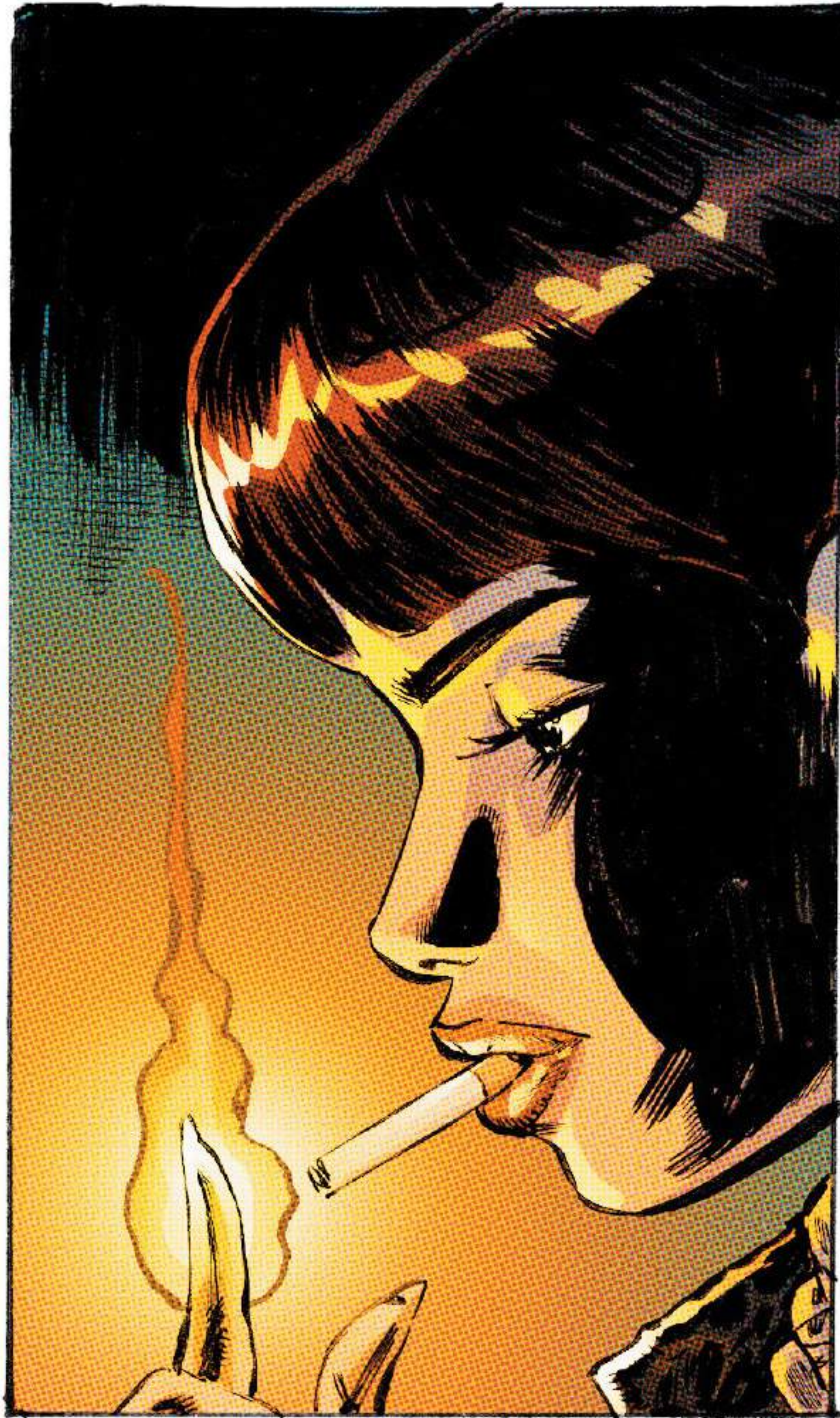
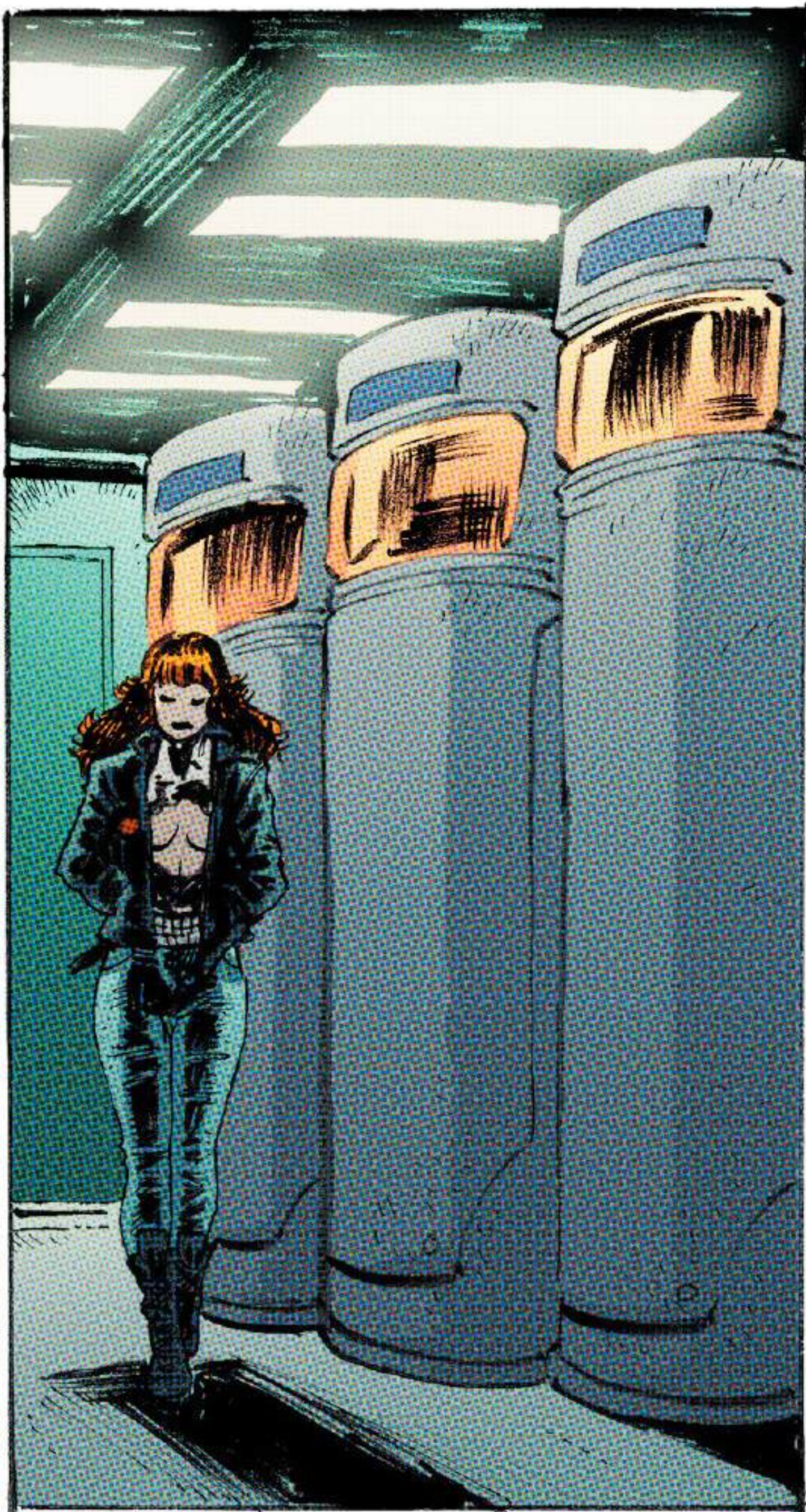
THE GUY WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUBE?

I'M SURE WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

OK! THAT'S MY CUE.

I'M GONNA HIT THE RE-GEN BED.

LATER, STRANGERS.





I WON'T DO IT!

I WON'T LET MY LEGACY FALL TO THESE DEGENERATES!

I'LL STAY UNTIL I DIE OF OLD AGE BEFORE I LET THEM TAIN IT!



CROSSJACK

Civilian Name:
Jack Xaver

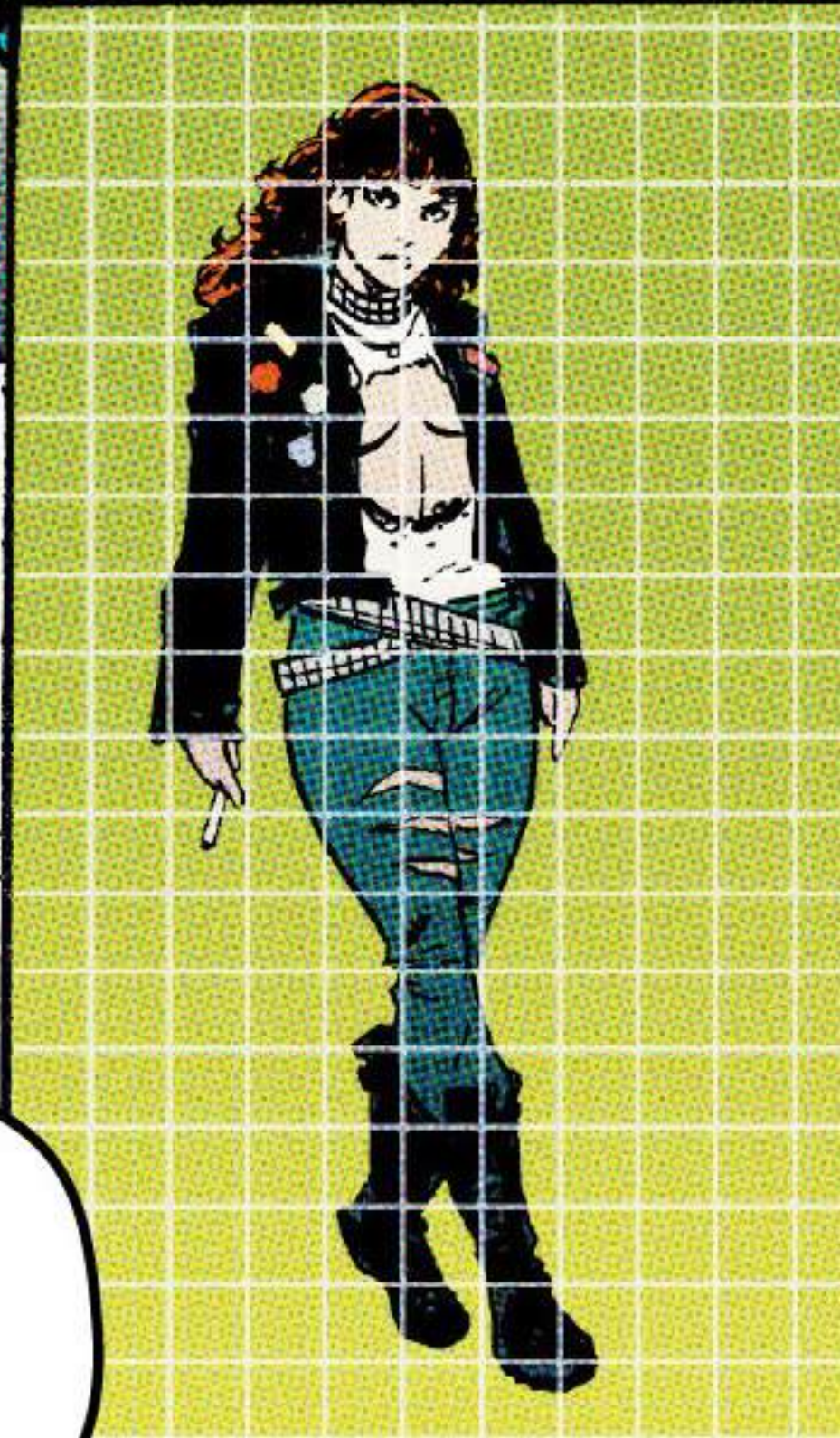
Powers:
Precision targeting.
er of several
ns, fighting styles.

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **8**

I'M PUTTING THE 4TH GEN PROJECT ON INDEFINITE HOLD.

Hunter/
ty, long
rang

THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT ITS ONLY NEW HERO WILL BE **CROSSJACK** FOR THE TIME BEING.



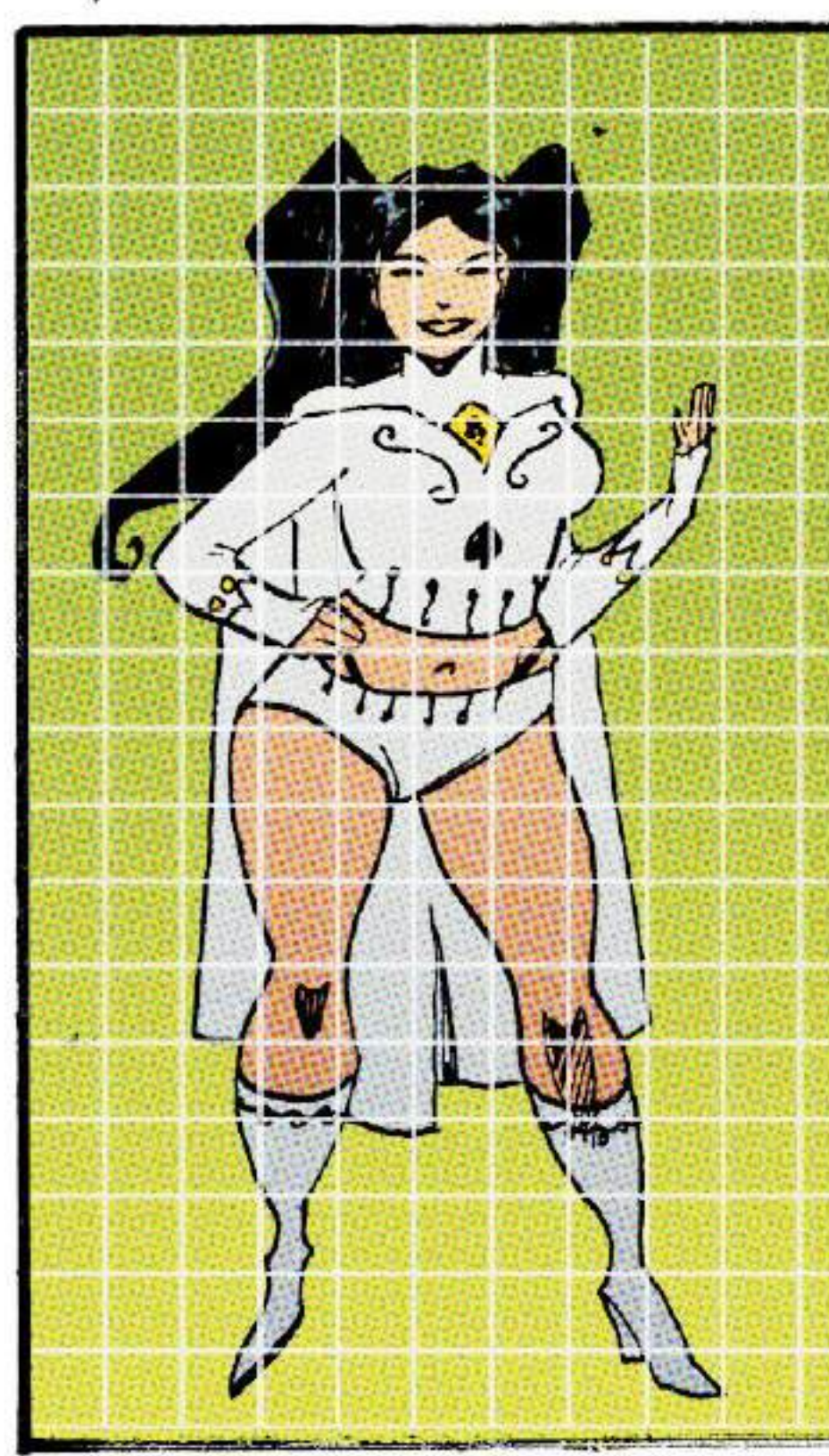
MELTDOWN

Civilian Name:
Taylor Stone

Powers:
Fire projection.
Tied to emotion.

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **9**

Welding, Heating,
Smelting, Incinera-
tion, Cremation



PEEKABOO

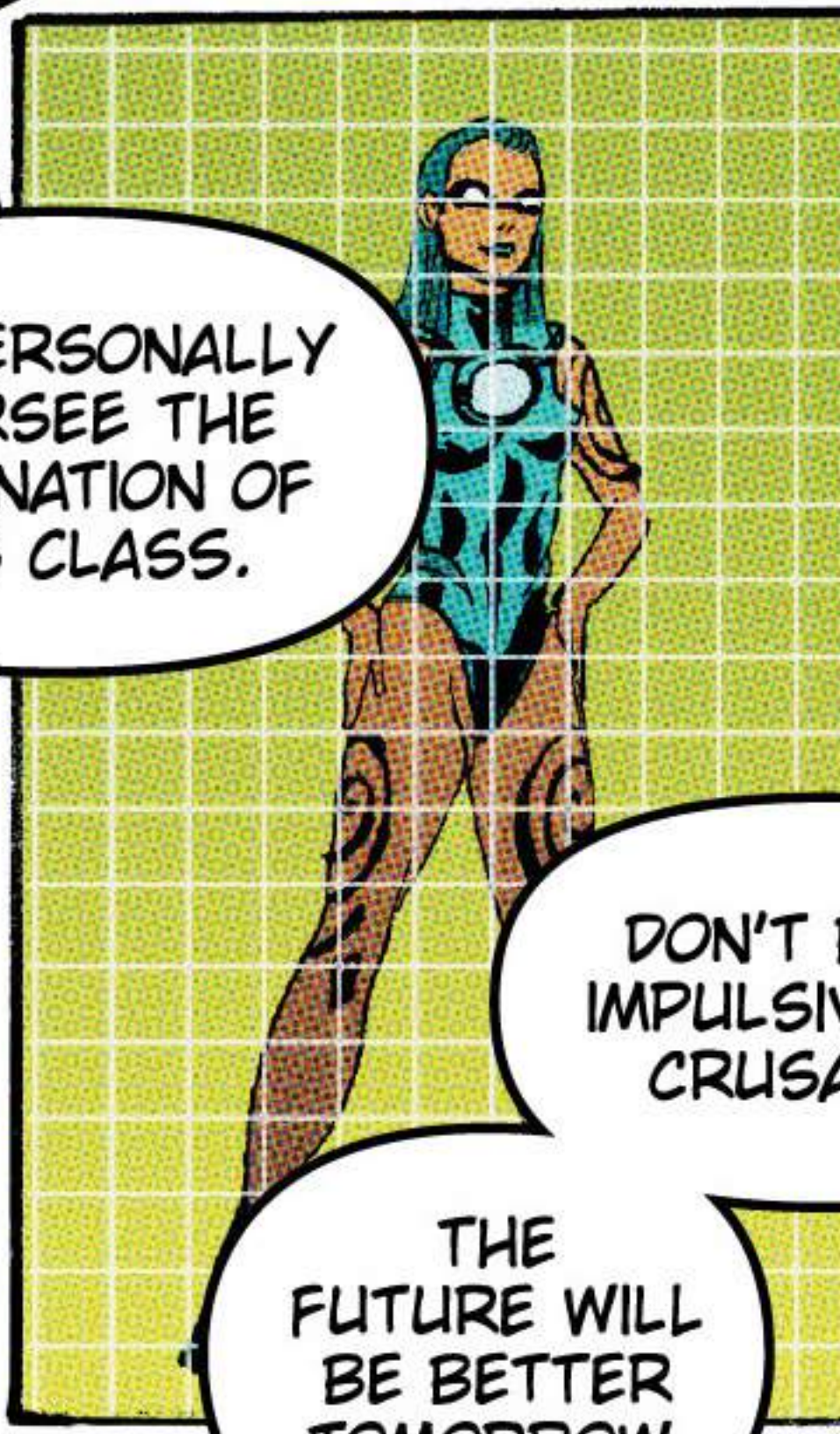
Civilian Name:
Angelique Trujillo

Powers:
Flight, Teleportation.

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **10**

Shipping, Delivery,
travel, messenger,
espionage, assassina-
tion

I'LL PERSONALLY OVERSEE THE TERMINATION OF THIS CLASS.



SEASCAPE

Civilian Name:
Classified

Powers:
Generates/projects
water. Liquid based
telekenisis.

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **7**

Irrigation, hydro-
electric, cleaning,
hydration.

DON'T BE SO IMPULSIVE, MR. CRUSADER.

THE FUTURE WILL BE BETTER TOMORROW.



KING BEE

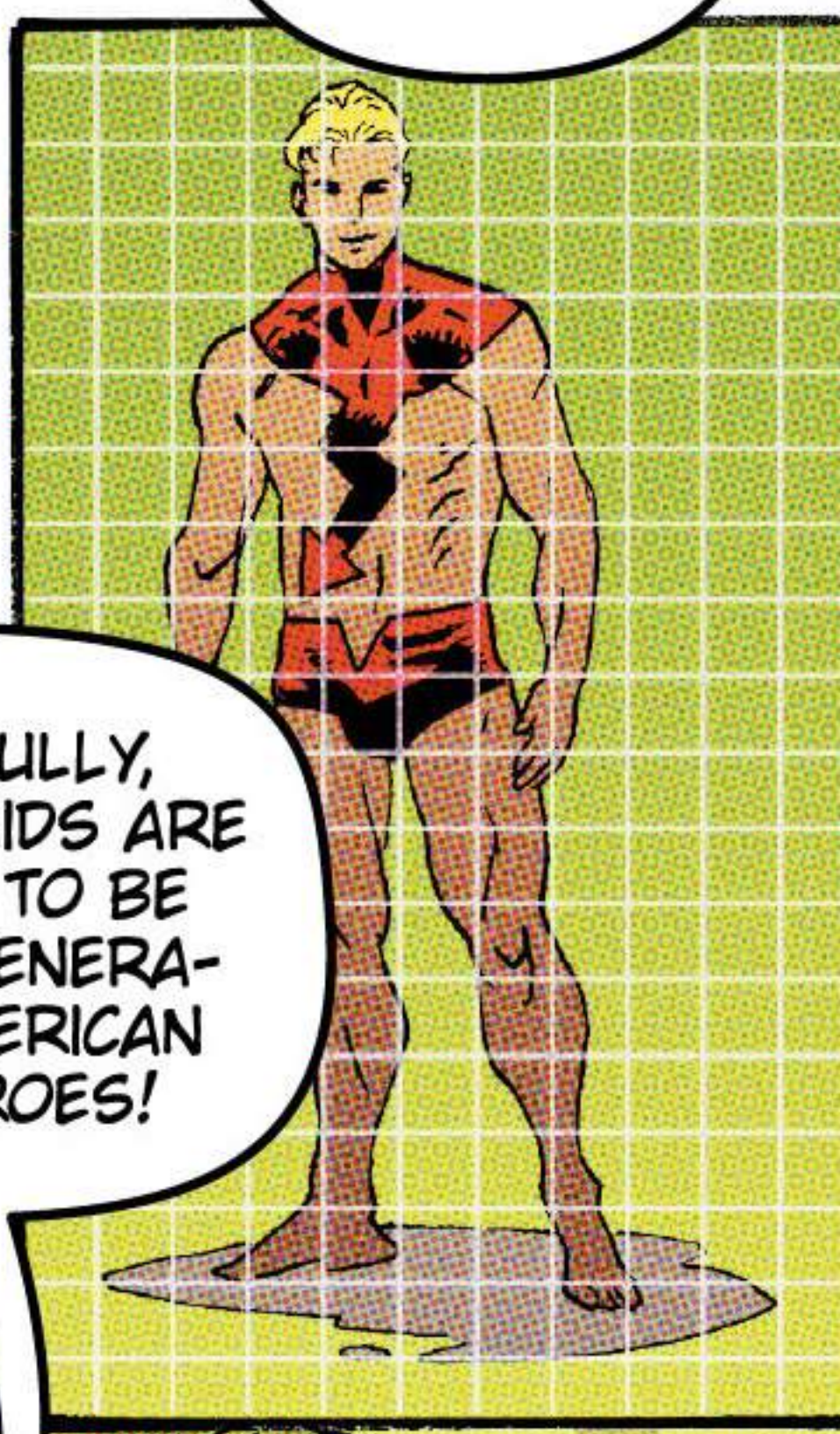
Civilian Name:
Eric Winston

Powers:
Super Strength, Poison
Electro-Sting.

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **7**

Heavy Lifting, P
ing, Digging, mov
pesticide, chemical
weaponry

RESPECTFULLY, SIR, THESE KIDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROES!



THE SLICK

Civilian Name:
Parker McKennan

Powers:
Human petroleum
generator. Super
Slippery

Project Aphek Resource
rating: **11**

OIL!

NOT MTV DEVIANTS!

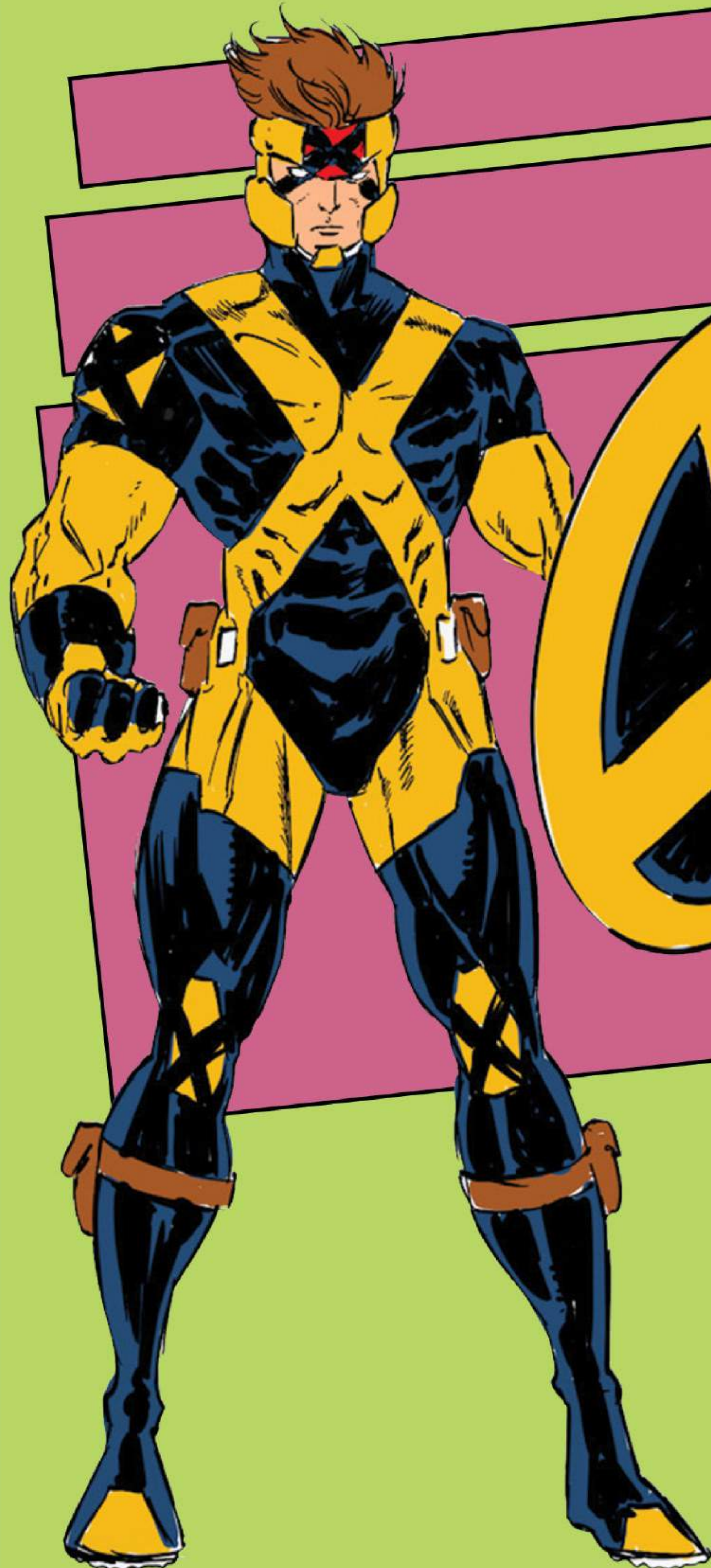




LOCAL MAN

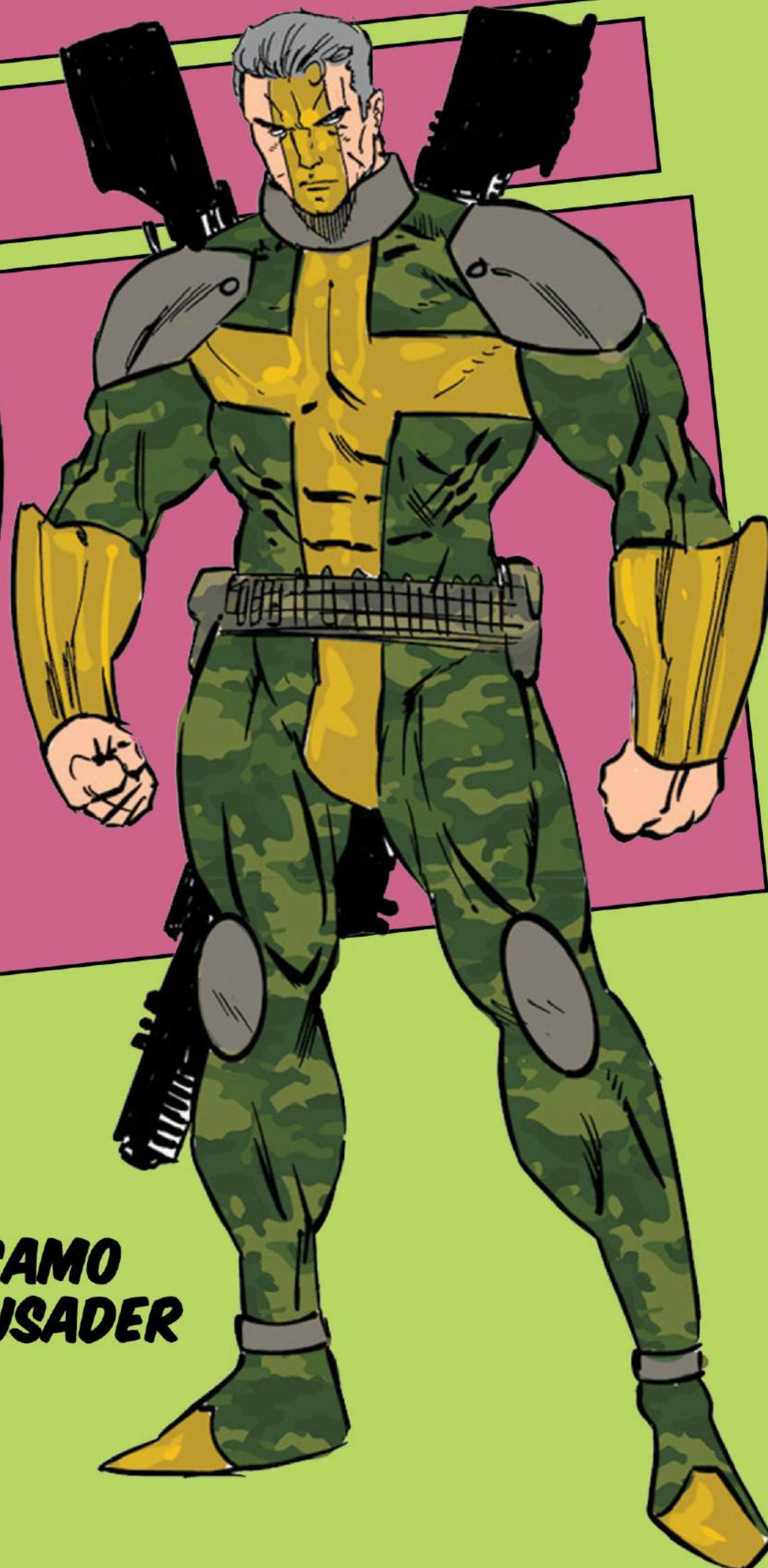
SKETCHBOOK

CROSSJACK



CROSSJACK looks like a 90s superhero character because HE IS a 90s superhero character. Tim made him up at age 15 in 1992, as the star of a self-published comic called SKULEROS. His look changed only a little in the 30 years since that humble debut.

CAMO CRUSADER



CAMO CRUSADER was among Tim's first ever superhero creations from childhood, inspired by the hunting magazines that littered his grandpa's home. A version of him appears in 'Lovebunny & Mr. Hell.'

AUNTIE INGA



AUNTIE INGA as Tim originally conceived of her. Tony completely redesigned her to match her story.

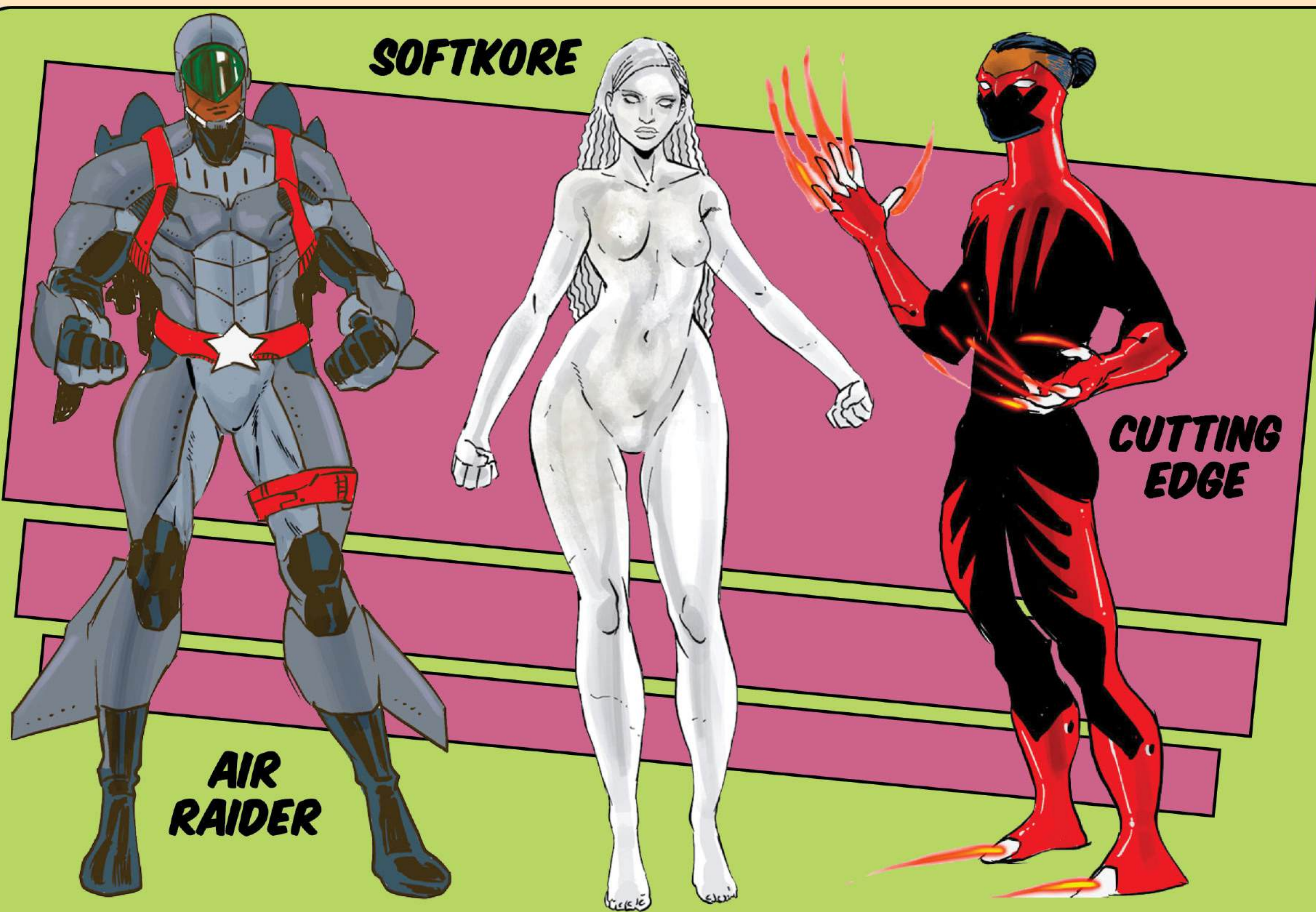
BIG ISLAND



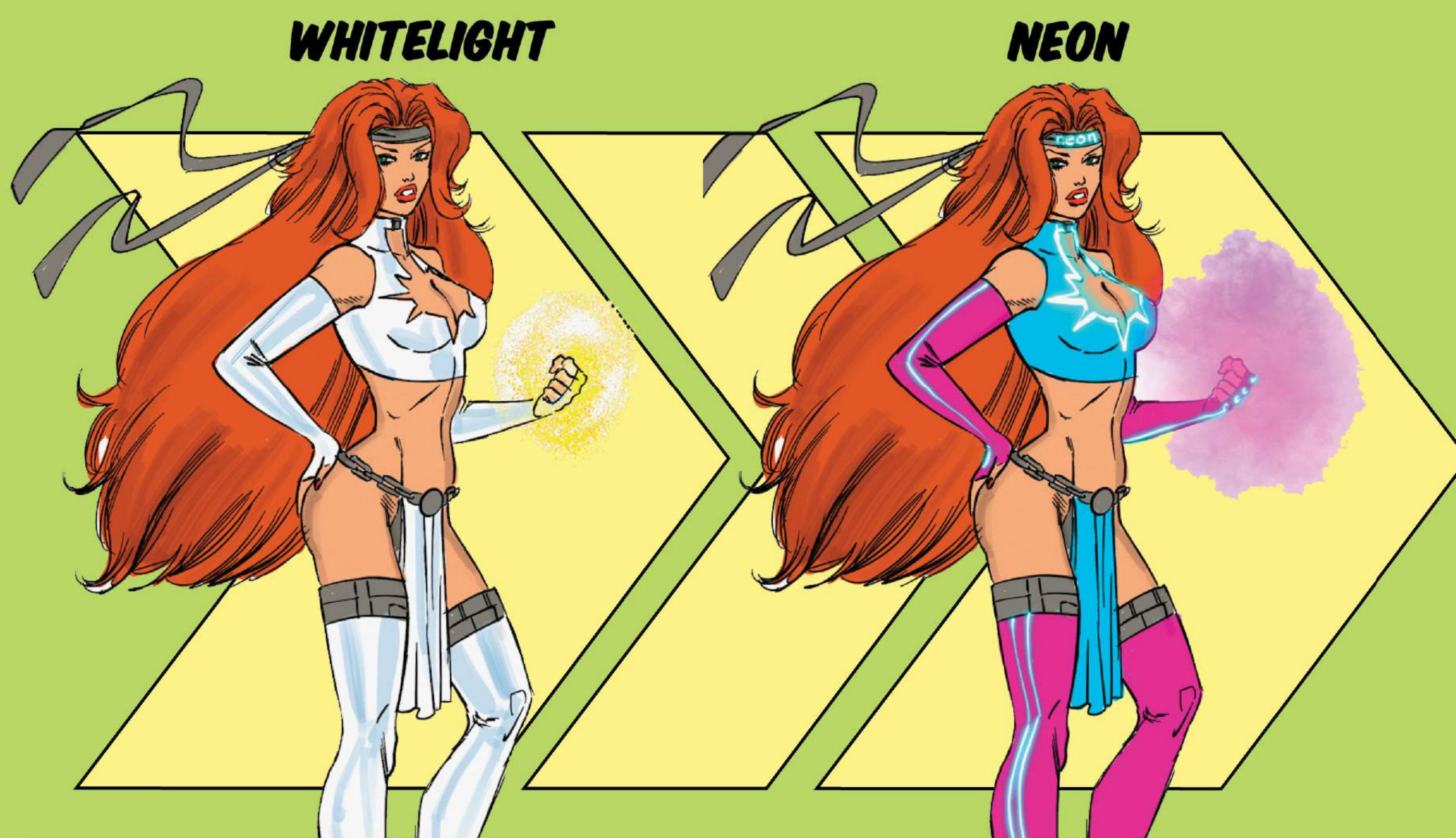
BIG ISLAND. Tony added 'cyber' to this design. Tony adds cyber to any design he can. See also HODAG. This became an important plot point.

HODAG

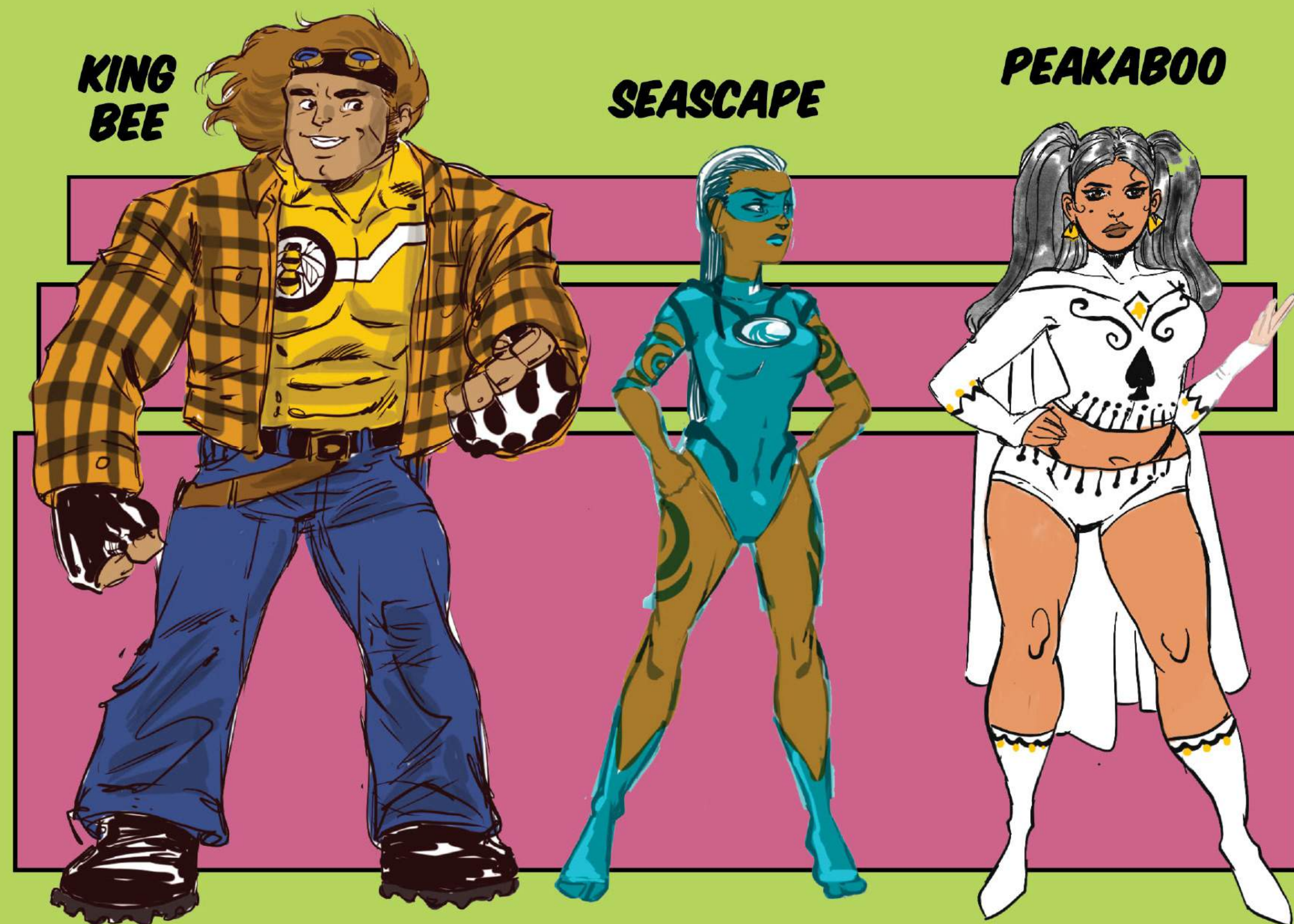




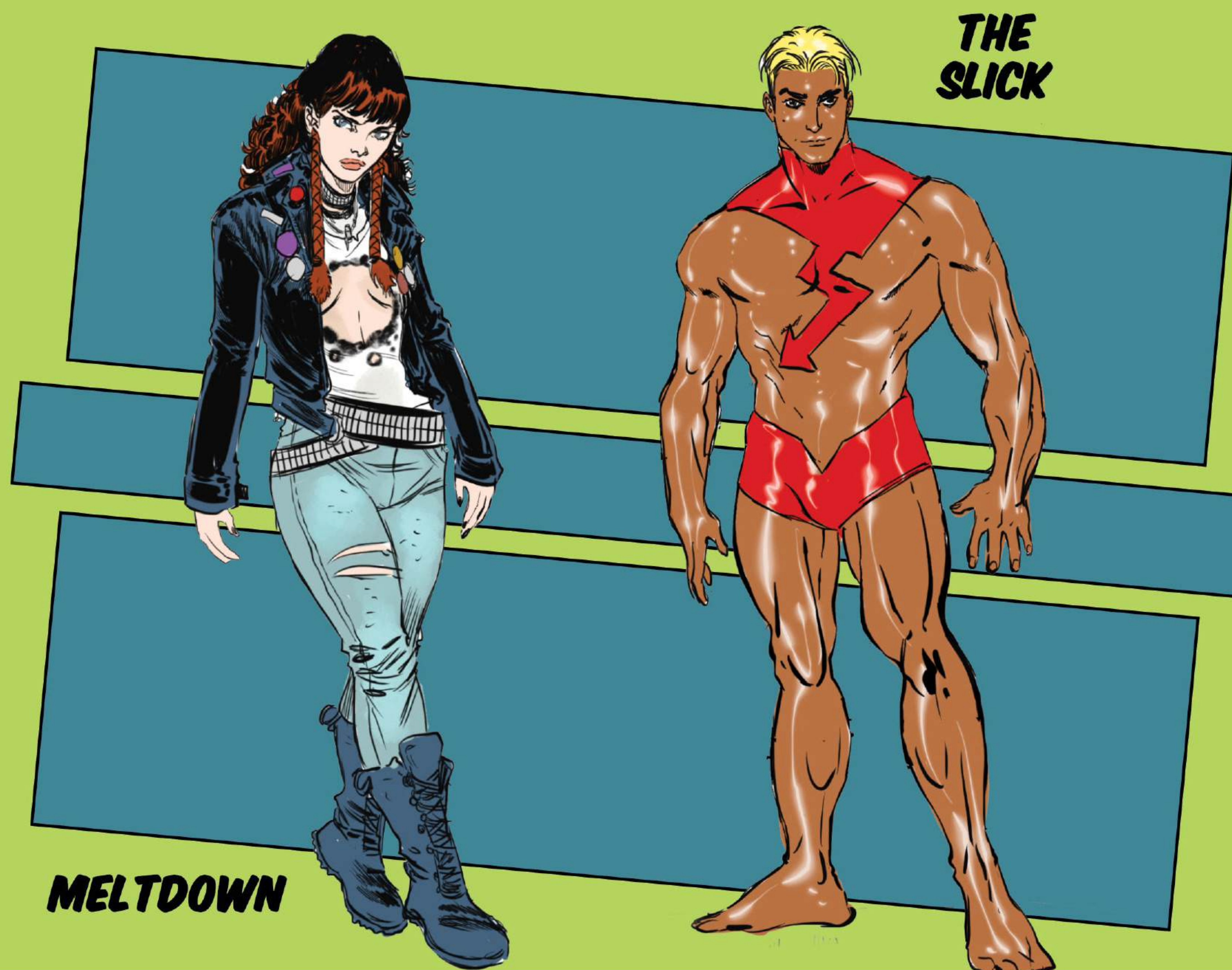
AIR RAIDER, SOFTKORE & CUTTING EDGE were created just for the series. Tim employed an "improv design" approach to them...one draft, and they're done. This helps capture the kind of "design it on the page" energy of early Image Comics.



NEON is based on a character Tim created in 1988 called WHITELIGHT. In fact, that name and original design were considered for this series, but deemed "not flashy enough." And thus Neon was born in all her bisexual lighting glory.



FOURTH GEN is almost entirely composed of Tim and Tony's pre-professional character designs. KING BEE & SEASCAPE are from Tony's teenage comic book creations, while MELTDOWN & PEEKABOO are from Tim's (although their names were "La Fuego," and "Whiteout.") THE SLICK was created from scratch for this series.



MELTDOWN

Cover Gallery



FLEECES - SEELEY - SIMPSON - SOBREIRO



LOCAL MAN



1ST
SENSES
SHATTERING
ISSUE!

MARAT
REBER

FLEECES • SEELEY • SIMPSON • SOBREIRO



image

1

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CPARADISE
COMICBUG

LOCAL MAN



Seeley 23
After KEM!

IMAGE COMICS • 1

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**"CROSSJACK
NO MORE!"**



LOCAL MAN

STRAY DOGS CREATOR **TONY FLEECES** TEAMS WITH REVIVAL'S **TIM SEELEY** FOR A SERIES THAT COMBINES RURAL CRIME NOIR AND SUPERHERO ACTION!

ONCE THE STAR RECRUIT OF THE MEDIA SENSATION SUPER-TEAM THIRD GEN, **JACK XAVER** HAD IT ALL. BUT WHEN CONTROVERSY SENDS **CROSSJACK** CRAWLING BACK TO HIS MOM AND DAD'S BASEMENT IN THE **MIDWEST**, JACK STRUGGLES TO FIT INTO A WORLD HE LEFT FAR BEHIND.

...AND THEN THE BODIES START PILING UP.

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— **SCOTT SNYDER** (BATMAN, DARK KNIGHTS: METAL)

CRIME & MYSTERY | SUPERHEROES
RATED **M** | MATURE (AGES 18+)
COLLECTS **LOCAL MAN** #1-5



D.R. & QUINCH

